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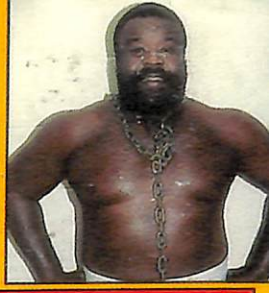

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NOV. 1998
No. 34

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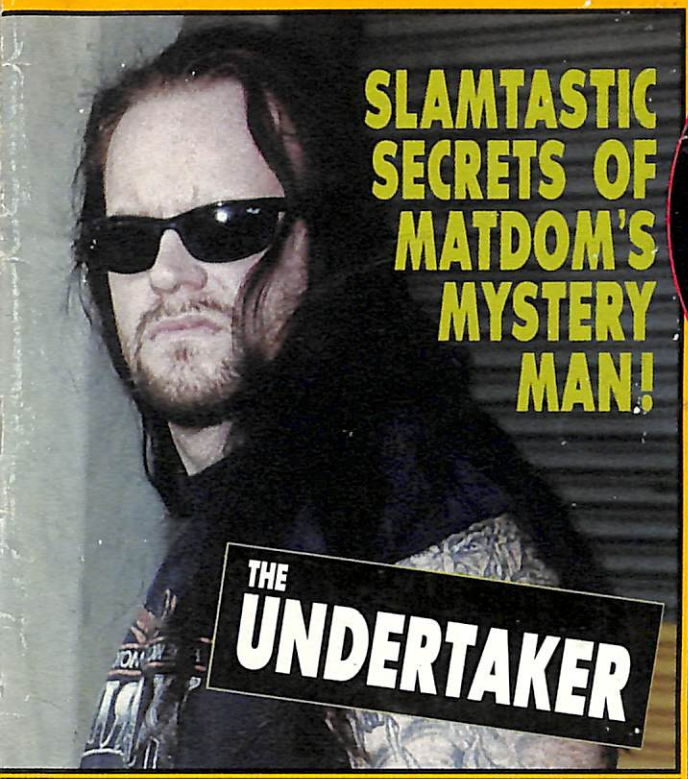

SLAMTASTIC SECRETS OF MATDOM'S MYSTERY MAN!

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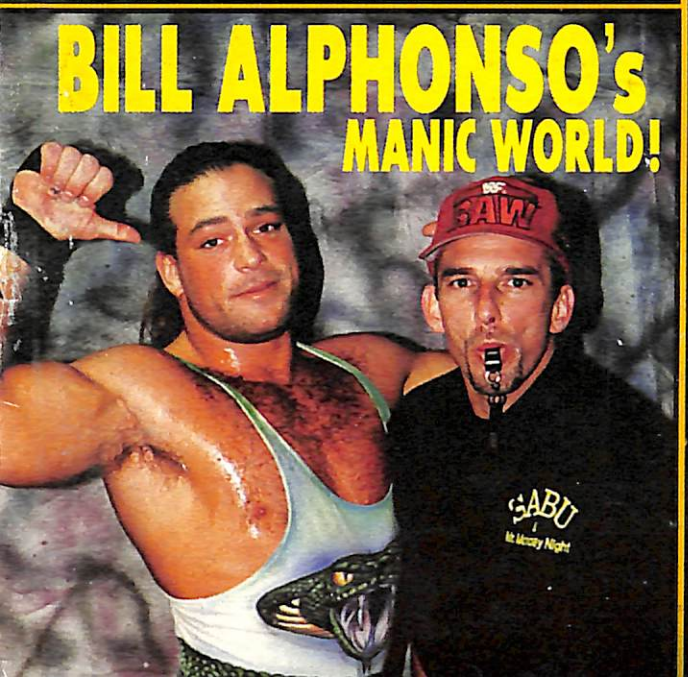

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VOL. 1, NO. 34 NOVEMBER 1998

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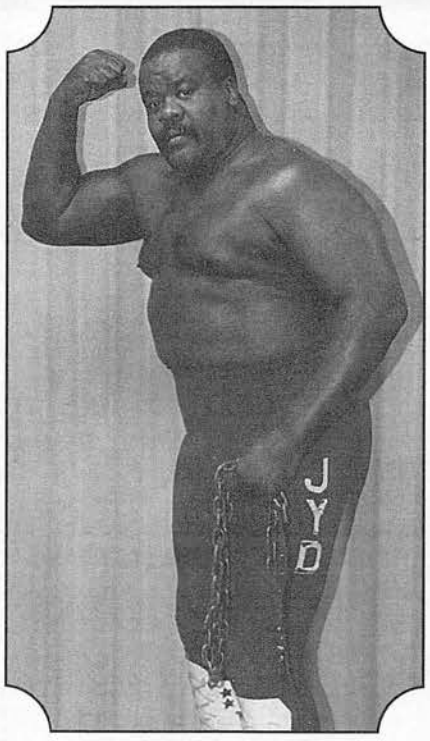

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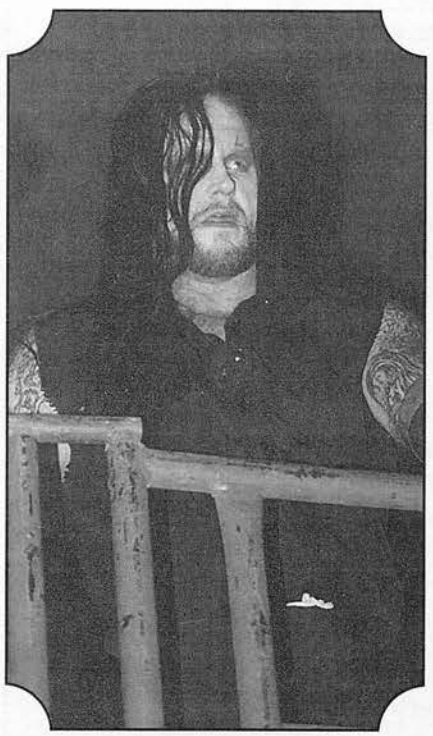

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Cover Photos: Bill Alphonso with Sabu & "Mr. Monday Night" Rob Van Dam, "Stone Cold" Steve Austin, and Bill Goldberg (Jerry Wilson) • "The Junk Yard Dog" Sylvester Ritter (Bob Murphy) • The Undertaker (Scott Ferenczi).

Color Pinups: Brandi Alexander, "Stone Cold" Steve Austin, Booker T., and "Outsider" Kevin Nash (Jerry Wilson) • Billy Kidman & "Poster Boy" Lodi (Scott Ferenczi) • "Road Dog" Jesse Jammes (Steve Burton).

OFFICIAL PRO-WRESTLING RANKINGS

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION
TOP-TEN HEAVYWEIGHTS

1. "Stone Cold" Steve Austin
2. The Undertaker
3. Ken Shamrock
4. Rocky Maivia
5. Hunter Hearst Helmsley
6. Steve "Dr. Death" Williams
7. Dude Love/Mankind
8. Vader
9. Steven Regal
10. Kane

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION
TOP-FIVE TAG TEAMS

1. Kane & Mankind
2. The New Age Outlaws
3. Legion of Doom 2000
4. Disciples of Apocalypse
5. The Nation of Domination

INTERNATIONAL
TOP-TEN HEAVYWEIGHTS

1. Kenta Kobashi (Japan)
2. Shinya Hashimoto (Japan)
3. Ken Shamrock (U.S.)
4. "Stone Cold" Steve Austin (U.S.)
5. Rob Van Dam (U.S.)
6. Toshiaki Kawada (Japan)
7. Kensuke Sasaki (Japan)
8. Bret "The Hitman" Hart (Canada)
9. Danie Voges (South Africa)
10. Universo 2000 (Mexico)

INTERNATIONAL
TOP-TEN JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHTS

1. Jushin Lyger (Japan)
2. Taka Michinoku (Japan)
3. Chris Jericho (Canada)
4. Felino (Mexico)
5. Gran Hamada (Japan)
6. Karloff Lagarde Jr. (Mexico)
7. Tony St. Clair (U.K.)
8. Juventud Guererra (Mexico)
9. Franz Schumann (Austria)
10. Sunny Wonder (Nigeria)

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING
TOP-TEN HEAVYWEIGHTS

1. Bill Goldberg
2. "Hollywood" Hogan
3. Bret "The Hitman" Hart
4. Sting
5. The Giant
6. "Outsider" Kevin Nash
7. "Crippler" Chris Benoit
8. "Diamond" Dallas Page
9. Booker T.
10. Lex Luger

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING
TOP-FIVE TAG TEAMS

1. Sting & Kevin Nash
2. Bret "The Hitman" Hart & Curt Hennig
3. The British Bulldog & Jim "The Anvil" Neidhart
4. Chris Benoit & Steve McMichael
5. Disco Inferno & Alex Wright

INTERNATIONAL
TOP-TEN TAG TEAMS

1. Sabu & Rob Van Dam (U.S.)
2. Masahiro Chono & Hiroyoshi Tenzan (Japan)
3. Ulf Hermann & Tony St. Clair (Germany/U.K.)
4. Fuerza Guerrera & AAA Mosco (Mexico)
5. El Samurai & Jushin Lyger (Japan)
6. Atlantis & Lizmark (Mexico)
7. "Tiger King" Sayama & Yoji Anjyo (Japan)
8. The Wrecking Crew—Fury & Rage (U.S.)
9. Toshiaki Kawada & Akira Taue (Japan)
10. The Body Gloves (Nigeria)

INTERNATIONAL
TOP-TEN WOMEN

1. Takako Inoue (Japan)
2. Momoe Nakanishi (Japan)
3. Yumiko Hotta (Japan)
4. Shark Tsuchiya (Japan)
5. Aja Kong (Japan)
6. Brittany Brown (U.S.)
7. Xochitl Hamada (Mexico)
8. De Stubborn Headache (Nigeria)
9. Rosy Moreno (Mexico)
10. Anna "Ring" Marshall (Nigeria)

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COMMENTARY FROM THE CUTTING EDGE
by Publisher/Editor MICHAEL O'HARA

Hey, New Waver! Welcome to our slamtastic *1998 Annual*. In this issue of ***New Wave Wrestling***, you'll find a battle royal of news, facts, and inside scoops featuring your beloved bodyslammers.

As you know, whenever space permits, I try to let the readers—our slightly slamtabulous ***New Wavers***—in on what's going on at ***NWW HQ***. Well, this particular commentary is being written smack dab in the middle of the summer, so here I am pounding away at the computer keyboard (way past the midnight hour) on a beautiful July summer night in New York City. As I look out the window of ***NWW HQ***, I think to myself, "You know, the breezy summer evenings have historically been the most significant nights for people to come together in celebration of special endeavors."

We all want to be part of something memorable such as *Woodstock*, the *Apollo 11* moon landing, a *Garth Brooks in Central Park Concert*, or whatever, but what immediately comes to mind is the need we have as a society to become a part of something bigger than ourselves. This is quite evident in the world of wrestling as we have many exciting events which allows us to come together. Of course I'm talking about *Wrestlemania*, *The Great American Bash*, *SummerSlam*, *Starrcade*, to name a few, which proves the grappling game is one of the best forms of entertainment geared for audience participation.

As I think back to my monthly treks to New York City's Madison Square Garden throughout the title reigns of Pedro Morales, Bruno Sammartino, Billy Graham, Bob Backlund, and Hulk Hogan, I remember some main events were fantastic while others were less so. Regardless of the quality of the matches, enjoying the company of good friends or possibly getting a chance to meet new ones has always been the major highlight of attending any live arena spectaculars.

The next time you attend an arena show and feel the need to criticize the talents of the grappling greats, take a look around you—there's a wrestling party going on and you might be missing it. Don't be a cynical critic and get bummed out by the action.

Sometimes we need to take a closer look at what we're doing. Why are we actually attending the arena matches in the first place? Perhaps there are times when we take the slammin' mat action a wee bit too seriously.

Reflecting on the tremendous main events from the 1970s through the 1990s, I am most grateful when I recall the lifelong friends I have made while attending live contests. When I think of the historic matches which have taken place over time, it reminds me that I've witnessed most of these events in the company of lifelong pals. Perhaps on an unconscious level, I'm looking for that common ground—the need to connect with fellow human beings, and I can't think of a better channel for creating personal bonds than attending a wrestling show.

The grapplin' game is such an amazing vehicle for making friends. Regardless of the quality of matches you're attending (or the lack thereof), don't ever lose track of the fact that there is an interesting fan sitting next to you. Say hello. Start a conversation. Who knows, you might possibly make a new best friend on that particular evening.

In closing, I can never say this enough—THANK YOU! With each edition of this periodical, you have proven there is an audience for thought-provoking features and honest information. Our mighty mat magazine is honored and privileged to publish exclusively for the "thinking fan" who wants comprehensive coverage in order to stay on top of all the mat action. As I've said before, the newsstands are filled with an assortment of wrestling "picture books," but ***New Wave Wrestling*** has committed itself to the discerning readers who refuse to have their intelligence insulted.

Don't forget that the whole gang at ***NWW HQ*** loves hearing from YOU, so send a letter or postcard with your own cogent comments to the *Mike's Mailbag* section (found on page 52 of this issue). We'll try to print as many letters as possible in each and every issue.

Thanks again, tag-team partner! I hope you enjoy the latest slamfest, and, as always, keep those positive waves!

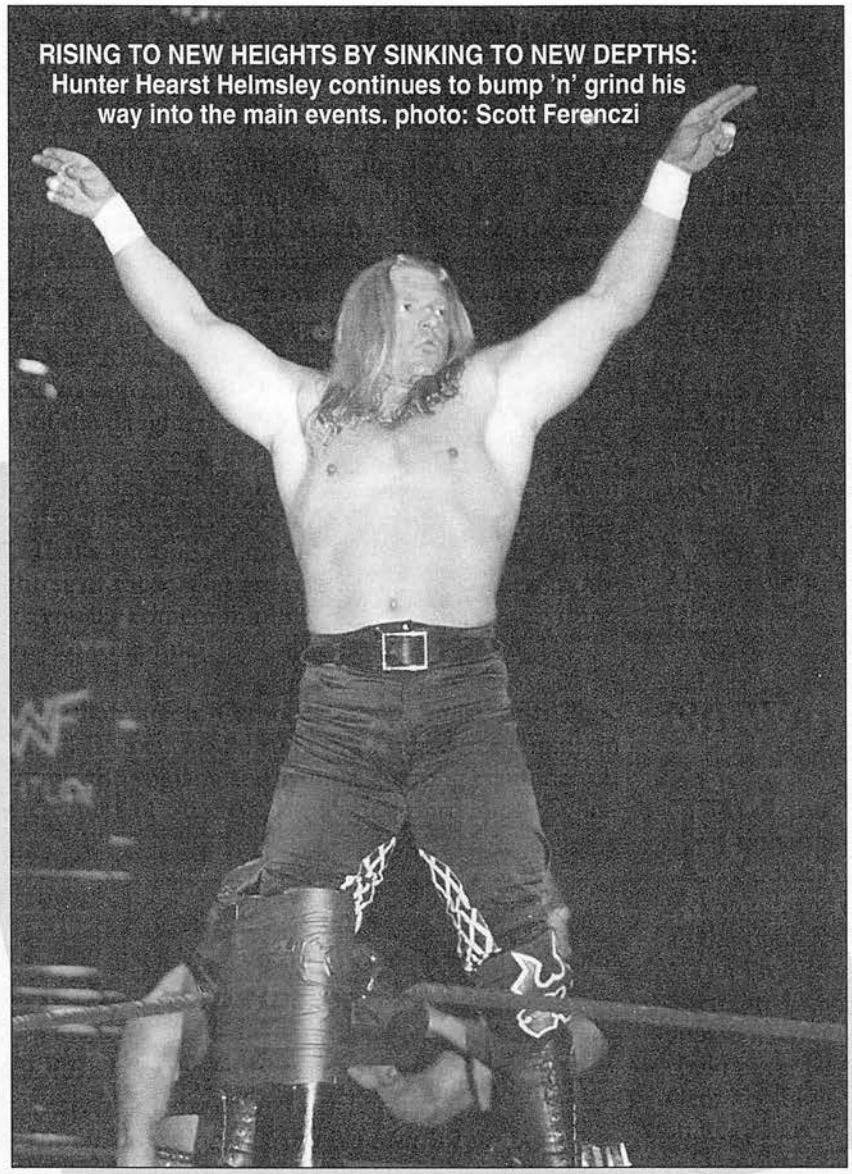
MICHAEL O'HARA

P.S. Our next issue ***(New Wave Wrestling #35)*** will arrive at your local magazine shop on **October 29th**, but, did you know you could have it in your hands as early as **October 19th** if you were a subscriber? And we're not talking about your basic, run-of-the-mill subscription offer either. This is the greatest pro-wrestling magazine subscription offer of all time! (How's that for humility?) We'd hate to think there may be ***New Wavers*** who'll miss all the slams 'n' scoops because they have to wait a few extra weeks for newsstand delivery or—in the worse possible scenario—another sellout at the local newsstand! For one low price you'll receive a full year's subscription (5 info-packed issues) to ***New Wave Wrestling*** plus 4 "Inside Secrets of Pro Wrestling" booklets (Write to Your Favorite Wrestlers • Wrestling Training Schools Directory • Wrestlers' Real Names & Birthdays #2 • How to Start a Wrestling Fan Club) and $45.95 in discount ***NWW*** coupons—an awesome $73.95 value—for ONLY $25.00! (see **Page 54** for details).

Don't forget, ***New Wave Wrestling*** is mailed in a flat manila envelope and will arrive in your mailbox weeks before it reaches your local newsstand. Stop running around town looking for the latest issue of ***New Wave Wrestling*** and let ***NWW*** come right to YOU—**SUBSCRIBE TODAY!**

NEXT WAVE NEWSREEL

MAT NEWS OF THE PAST, PRESENT & FAR-FLUNG FUTURE!



RISING TO NEW HEIGHTS BY SINKING TO NEW DEPTHS: Hunter Hearst Helmsley continues to bump 'n' grind his way into the main events. photo: Scott Ferenczi

• **WWF:** Two of the Federation's top stars—Steve Austin and The Undertaker—have been valiantly competing in spite of nagging injuries. In fact, two shows were canceled this past summer in Oklahoma because of their physical ailments. Let's hope the powers that be will give the gruesome twosome some much-needed rest and relaxation.

Dustin Runnels, formerly known as Goldust, has become something of a "wrestlevangelist" recently. Now that he's spouting scripture and verse, it will be interesting to see how long this new scenario will last before the protests begin.

Edge (Adam Copeland) has taken off to a fine start with several victories over members of Los Boricuas...Sunny (Tamara Sytch) should be back in action (?) by the time you read this. Apparently, she was in a nasty fender bender, but came away from the situation unscathed.

Newcomers headed to the WWF include Shawn Stasiak (Shawn Stipich), Michael Hollow, and Rod Blackbeard, who are completing the finishing touches to their instruction at the WWF training center in Connecticut.

Steve "Dr. Death" Williams has arrived on the scene after spending the last few years in Japan. He should provide serious competition to "Stone Cold" Steve Austin, whose real name is, ironically enough, Steve Williams!

Steven Regal (Darren Matthews), formerly "Lord" Steven Regal in WCW, has invaded the WWF. The scientific Brit will add some much-needed style to the Federation's current top-heavy brawling format.

"Marvelous" Marc Mero surprised everyone by acquiring the services of Jacqueline (Jackie Moore) as his valet. She has been one of the brightest spots in the ever-shrinking women's division. Let's hope she gets a chance to shine.

Continuing to make progress is Shawn Michaels (Michael Hickenbottom), as he tries to rehabilitate the herniated discs in his spine with physical therapy as well as keep up with his training. According to several reports, all is going well; he will probably not require back surgery, but the healing process could take as long as one year. Our best wishes and positive waves go to "HBK."

The Jackyl (Don Callis) recently introduced his "Parade of Human Oddities." They include Golga (John "Earthquake" Tenta), Luna (Angel Vachon), Kurrgan

(Robert Malloy), and Paul Silva, a "giant" rookie trained by Dory Funk Jr. who looks incredibly like the late Andre the Giant (Andre Rousimoff), but he is no relation.

Tiger Ali Singh (Michael Hans) has begun accepting limited bookings on the circuit...The Godwinns have abandoned their "hillbilly" characters; they are now being called Southern Justice and using their real names Mark Canterbury (formerly Henry) and Dennis Knight (formerly Phinneas).

For all intents and purposes, the use of the NWA titles seems to be history ...Yamaguchi San (Wally Yamaguchi), the manager of the Kaientai trio, was actually a writer and photographer for pro-wrestling magazines in his native Japan...Taka Michinoku's World light-heavyweight gold seems to be turning

RETRO RASSLIN' RECAP

A Summary of Recent WWF & WCW Title Changes

• ***April 30, 1998 Augusta, Georgia—WCW:*** "Crippler" Chris Benoit used a crossface submission hold to defeat Booker T. (Booker Huffman) for the WCW World Television heavyweight strap.

• ***May 1, 1998 Greenville, South Carolina—WCW:*** Booker T. pinned Chris Benoit to regain the WCW World Television title.

• ***May 2, 1998 (location unknown)—WCW Profiles in Pain Internet Broadcast:*** "Crippler" Chris Benoit used a crossface submission hold to defeat Booker T. to reclaim the WCW World TV belt once again.

• ***May 3, 1998 Savannah, Georgia—WCW:*** Booker T. pinned Chris Benoit to regain the WCW World TV gold.

• ***May 4, 1998 Indianapolis, Indiana—WCW Monday Nitro:*** Dave "Fit" Finley tombstoned and pinned Booker T. to capture the WCW World Television heavyweight title at 3:57.

• ***May 17, 1998 Worcester, Massachusetts—WCW Slamboree pay-per-view:*** Dean Malenko (Dean Simon), disguised as the masked Mexican wrestler known as Ciclope, won the 15-man elimination cruiserweight contender battle royal, and later defeated "Lionheart" Chris Jericho (Chris Irvine) to regain the WCW World cruiserweight championship.

On the same card, Sting (Steve Borden) and The Giant (Paul Wight) defeated Scott Hall and Kevin Nash for the WCW World tag-team crowns. (Hall attacked his own tag partner by clobbering him with one of the tag belts. The Giant then easily covered the unconscious Nash for the pinfall victory.)

• ***June 4, 1998 Peoria, Illinois—WCW Thunder:*** Lex Luger (Larry Pfhol) and "Diamond" Dallas Page (Page Falkenberg) defeated The Giant and Brian Adams (substituting for Sting) for the WCW World tag titles at 6:30. (Page pinned Adams.)

Later that evening, WCW Chairman J.J. Dillon declared the title change void. The stipulation was Sting would wrestle The Giant and the winner of the match will pick a new partner and coholder of the tag belts. The match was scheduled for the Great American Bash pay-per-view in Baltimore, Maryland on June 14.

• ***June 11, 1998 Buffalo, New York—WCW Thunder:*** Dean Malenko relinquished his claim to the WCW World cruiserweight title. The belt will be awarded to the winner of the return match between Malenko and Chris Jericho at the Great American Bash ppv.

• ***June 14, 1998 Baltimore, Maryland—WCW Great American Bash pay-per-view:*** "Lionheart" Chris Jericho defeated Dean Malenko via disqualification to regain the vacant WCW World cruiserweight championship at 13:47.

On the same show, Booker T. tombstoned and pinned Dave Finley to regain the WCW World TV belt at 13:15.

Also, Sting used a scorpion death drop and pinned The Giant to win both tag-team belts at 6:38.

• ***June 15, 1998 Uniondale, Long Island, New York—WCW Monday Nitro:*** Sting picked Kevin Nash as his new partner and coholder of the WCW World tag-team titles.

• ***June 28, 1998—Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania—WWF King of the Ring pay-per-view:*** Kane defeated "Stone Cold" Steve Austin to capture the WWF World heavyweight championship in a "first blood" match.

On the same show, Ken Shamrock defeated Rocky Maivia to win the annual King of the Ring elimination tournament.

• ***June 29, 1998 Cleveland, Ohio—WWF Raw is War/War Zone:*** "Stone Cold" Steve Austin (Steve Williams) stunned and pinned Kane (Glen Jacobs) to regain the WWF World heavyweight championship at 8:26.

• ***July 6, 1998 Atlanta, Georgia—WCW Monday Nitro:*** Bill Goldberg jackhammered and pinned "Hollywood" Hulk Hogan to win the WCW World heavyweight title at 8:11. (Karl Malone & DDP prevented Curt Hennig's interference.)

• ***July 12, 1998 San Diego, California—WCW Bash at the Beach pay-per-view:*** Rey Misterio Jr. defeated Chris Jericho to win the WCW World cruiserweight crown. (Dean Malenko caused ringside distraction.)

• ***July 13, 1998 Las Vegas, Nevada—WCW Monday Nitro:*** Chairman of the WCW Executive Committee J.J. Dillon reversed the decision and returned the WCW World cruiserweight title to Chris Jericho.

• ***July 13, 1998 East Rutherford, New Jersey—WWF Raw is War/War Zone:*** Kane & Mankind defeated The New Age Outlaws for the WWF World tag straps at 5:08. (D-Lo Brown interfered, allowing Kane to tombstone and pin Jesse Jammes.)

• ***July 14, 1998 Binghamton, New York—(shown on the July 20, 1998 WWF Raw is War/War Zone):*** D-Lo Brown (A.C. Connor) pinned Hunter Hearst Helmsley (Paul Michael LeVesque) at 6:04 for the WWF European heavyweight title. (Rocky Maivia interfered.)

• ***July 20, 1998 Salt Lake City, Utah—WCW Monday Nitro:*** The Giant & Scott Hall defeated Sting & Kevin Nash at 12:07 for the WCW World tag belts. (Hall outside edged and pinned Sting after Bret Hart interfered.)

Also, Bret "The Hitman" Hart used a sharpshooter submission to defeat "Diamond" Dallas Page at 2:51 for the vacant United States heavyweight championship.

into tin, as the WWF's attempt in developing a junior-heavyweight division pales in comparison to WCW's vibrant roster.

• **WCW & NWO:** The legal tussles between WCW and "Nature Boy" Ric Flair (Richard Fliehr) continue. WCW's $2 million lawsuit against the former World heavyweight champion stems from their belief that Ric broke a three-year agreement with the company by failing to show up for four scheduled matches during the year. Flair's counter-lawsuit alleges that he has no contract with WCW, but merely a letter of intent to sign a contract with the organization. It's his belief that he is still a free agent.

It is rumored that the contract in question offered Flair a payment of approximately $2 million for 630 appearances over the next three years.

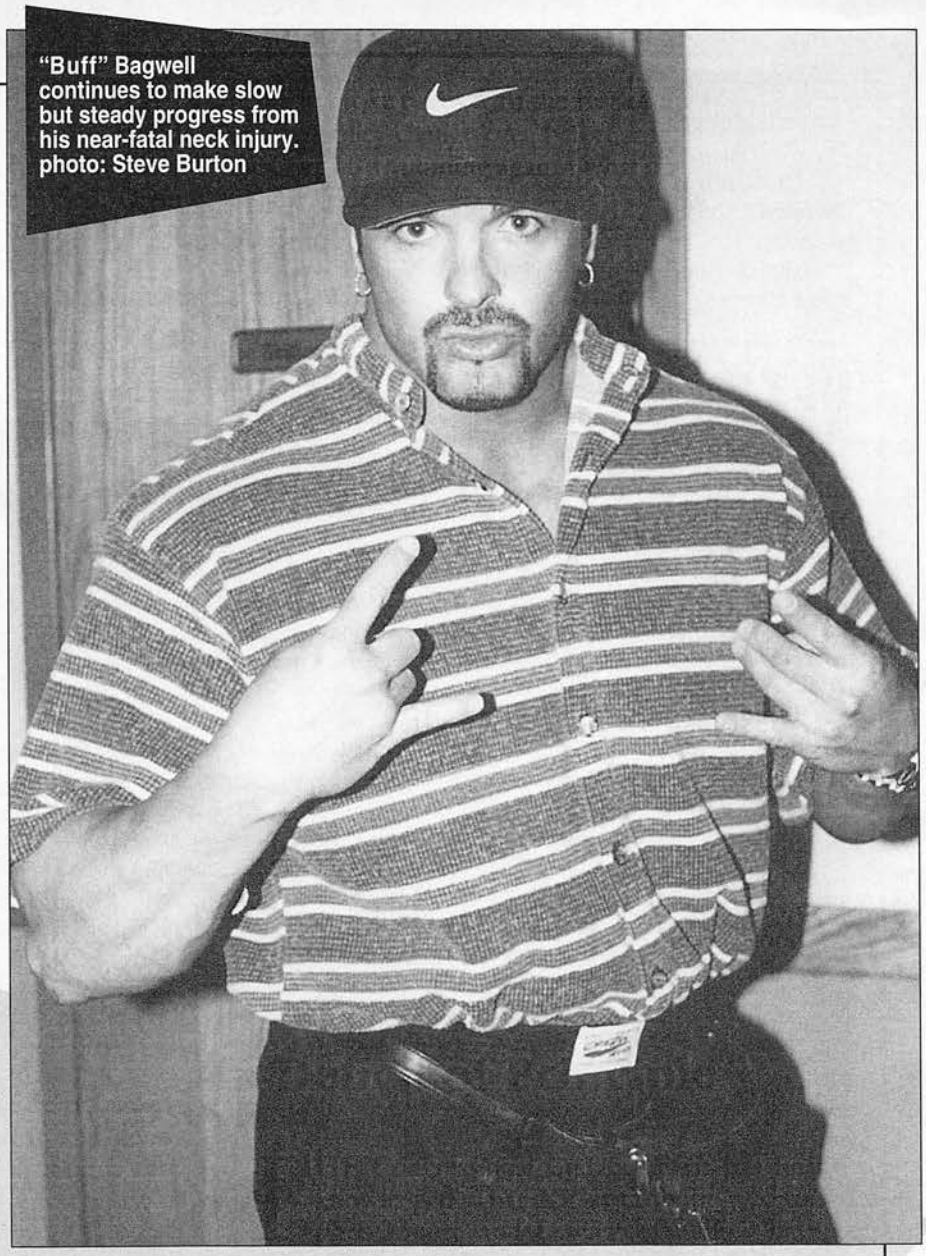
The involvement of sports stars from nonrelated professions has continued recently with the participation of hoop star Karl Malone, who looked to be in a daze throughout the publicity blitz leading up to his *Bash at the Beach* tag-team match with partner "Diamond" Dallas Page against "Hollywood" Hogan (Terry Bollea) and Dennis Rodman, who looked equally as hazy.

The current storyline has Bret "The Hitman" Hart "protecting" "Hulk" Hogan until the time is right for him to garner a decisive victory over WCW's blond bad boy.

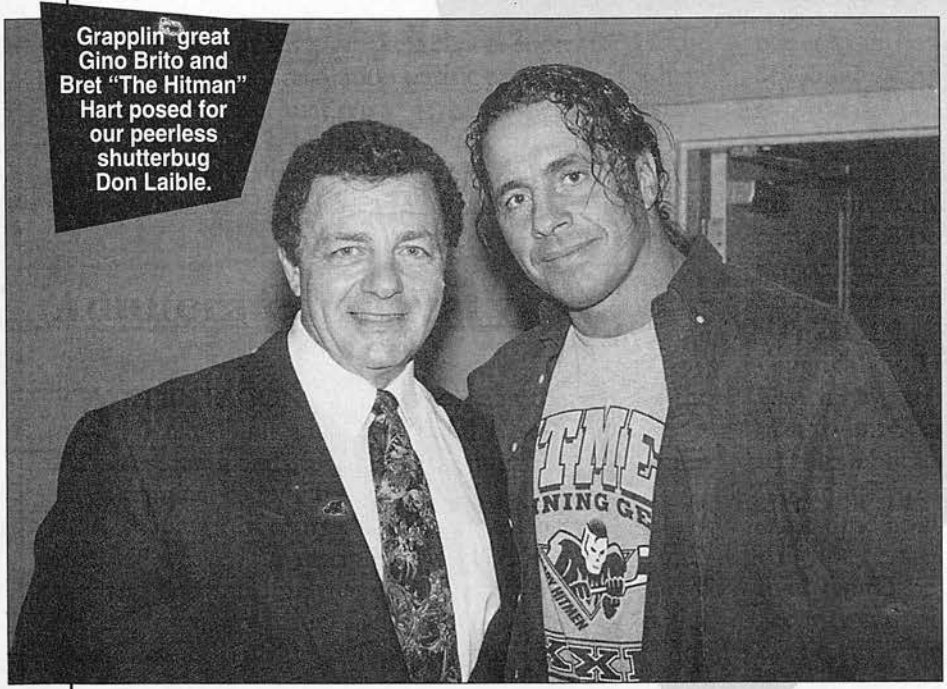
Flock member Reese is actually Ron Reis, a former center on the Broncos basketball team who was trained by the late "Big" John Studd (John Minton). Ron has a degree in political science, and he is considering entering law school at the end of his pro-grapplin' days.

Congratulations to Dave "Fit" Finley on his recent marriage...The Ultimate Warrior (Jim Hellwig) has apparently signed with WCW, so he'll probably be seen by the time you read this!... Speaking of contracts, "Hollywood" Hogan has inked a new three-year deal with WCW, so don't expect him to leave the WCW/NWO territory any time soon.

Look for a new line of WCW action figures (manufactured by Toy Biz) this holiday season...The tentative lineup for the new Four Horsemen is "Crippler" Chris Benoit, Dave "Fit" Finley, Steve "Mongo" McMichael, Dean Malenko, and "Enforcer" Arn Anderson (Marty Lunde) as their advisor. ***NWW***

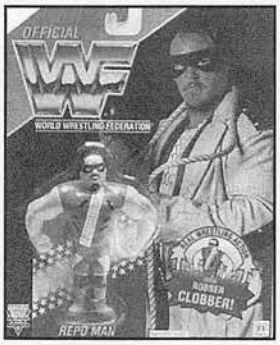


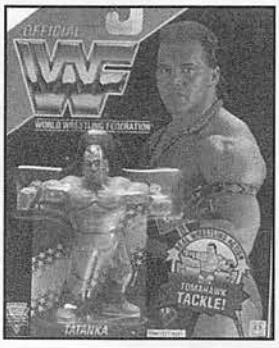
"Buff" Bagwell continues to make slow but steady progress from his near-fatal neck injury. photo: Steve Burton



Grapplin' great Gino Brito and Bret "The Hitman" Hart posed for our peerless shutterbug Don Laible.

New Wave Wrestling's® SLAM 'n' SWAP SHOP





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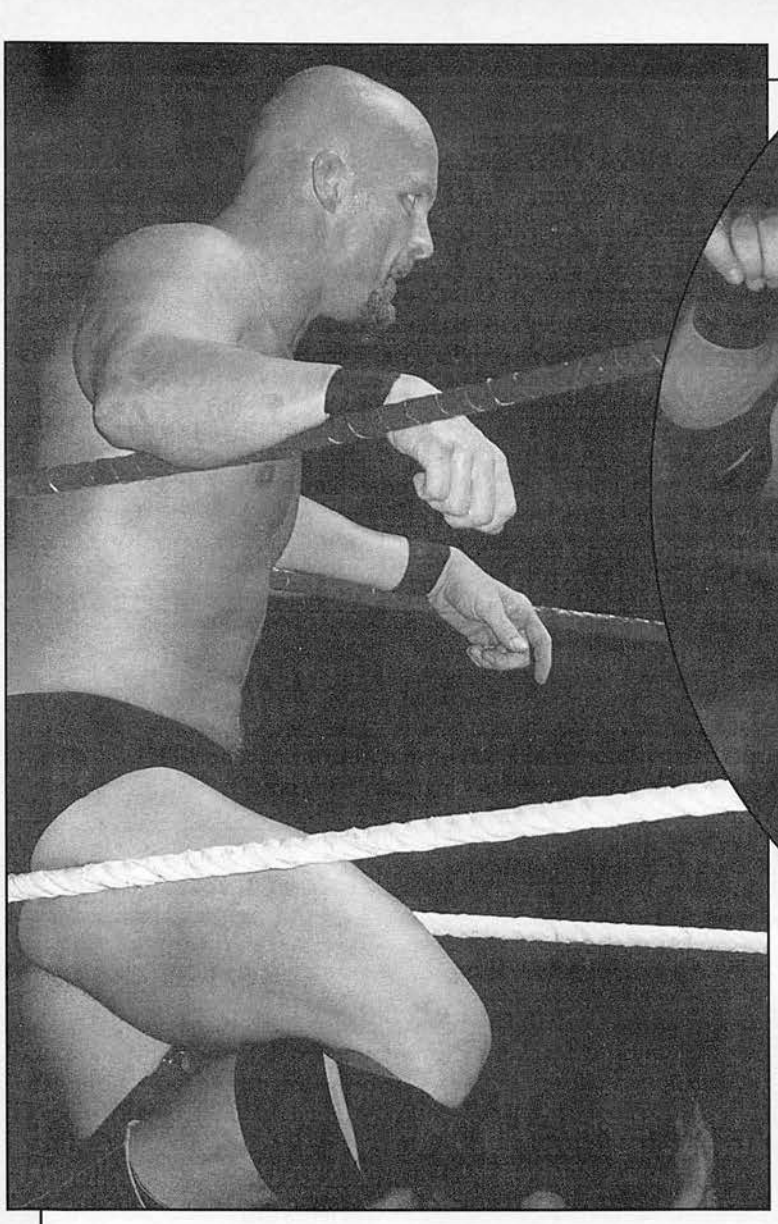
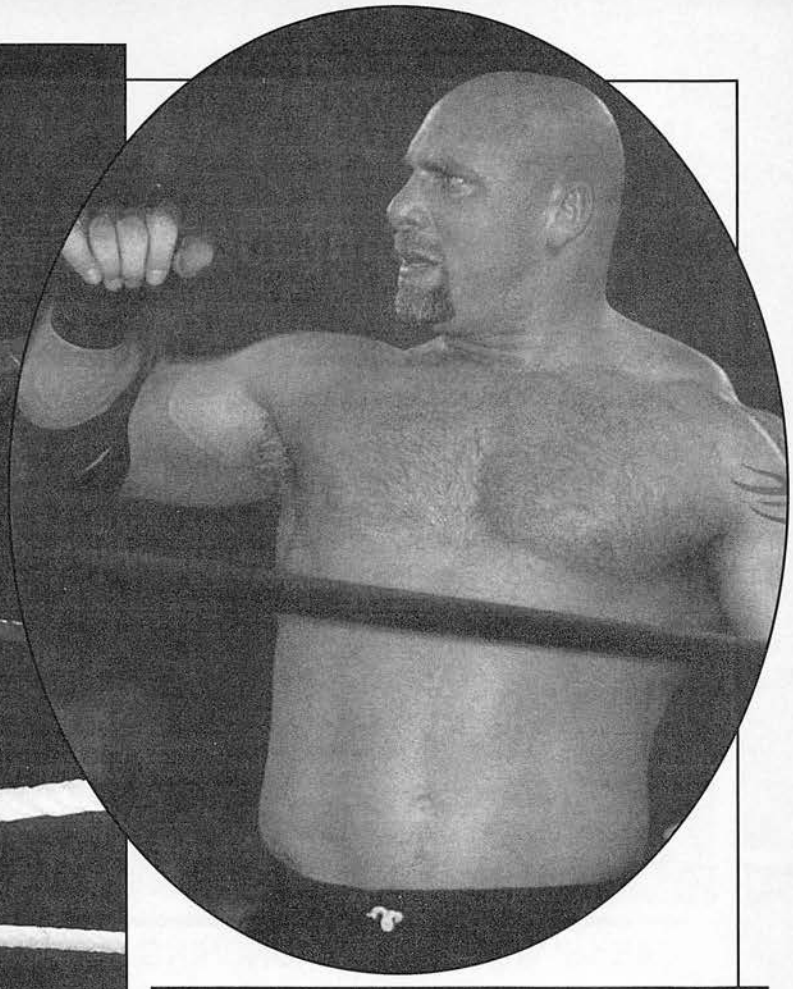




HEAD TO HEAD!

WILL GOLDBERG SURPASS STEVE AUSTIN'S POPULARITY?

THE FANS OF PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING simply love a rags-to-riches success story, and Bill Goldberg, who will soon be celebrating his first anniversary as a pro-grappling gladiator, certainly fits the script perfectly. Since arriving on the slammin' scene in September of 1997, Bill has been working exhaustively in an attempt to break away from the perception of him by the fans as WCW's resident clone of "Stone Cold" Steve Austin, the WWF's brash baldie. His hard work and determination have unquestionably paid off as he is now closing in on his WWF counterpart in the popularity polls.

With each passing week and every successive pinfall victory, Bill has been able to carve out a distinguished niche for himself within a major-league promotion infested with overinflated egos. Without fanfare or a significant storyline, the former grid-iron star secured the respect and admiration of the fans the hard way—by earning it.

As I stated in our last issue, Goldberg, using a game plan which at first appeared too simplistic to be effective, demol-ished the old order of ranking by forcing the matchmakers to abandon their standard formula of matchups.

Within a mere seven months, Bill convincingly captured the United States heavyweight crown. Two months later, he achieved the impossible by pinning Hulk Hogan for the WCW World title. His reputation as a pseudo main-event performer had been obliterated. Bill Goldberg had arrived!

Story by Michael O'Hara • photographs by Buddy Phillips, Craig Prendergast & Jerry Wilson

Throughout the past year, "Stone Cold" Steve Austin was simultaneously laying his own foundation for ring dominance in the WWF. Initially, the "stun master" merely brushed off Bill's incredibly strong ring presence as a short-lived fluke, but as we have seen, neither man is losing any ground, and, if anything, they are leaving most of their peers behind. It seems that in today's weird world of wrestling there are only three types of wrestlers: Austin, Goldberg...and all the rest.

Steve has made an enviable reputation for himself by bucking the system, while Goldberg has followed suit with equal success. Running against the grain has proven to be a bona fide formula for garnering a fan following.

Goldberg appears to have the leading edge at this juncture. Without fanfare, little hype, and no glitzy grappling garb, Bill has positioned himself as a man of mystery devoid of any hubris but loaded with natural talent. WCW has been extremely wise to limit his exposure on the numerous television broadcasts; his lack of interview time only adds to the mystery and intrigue.

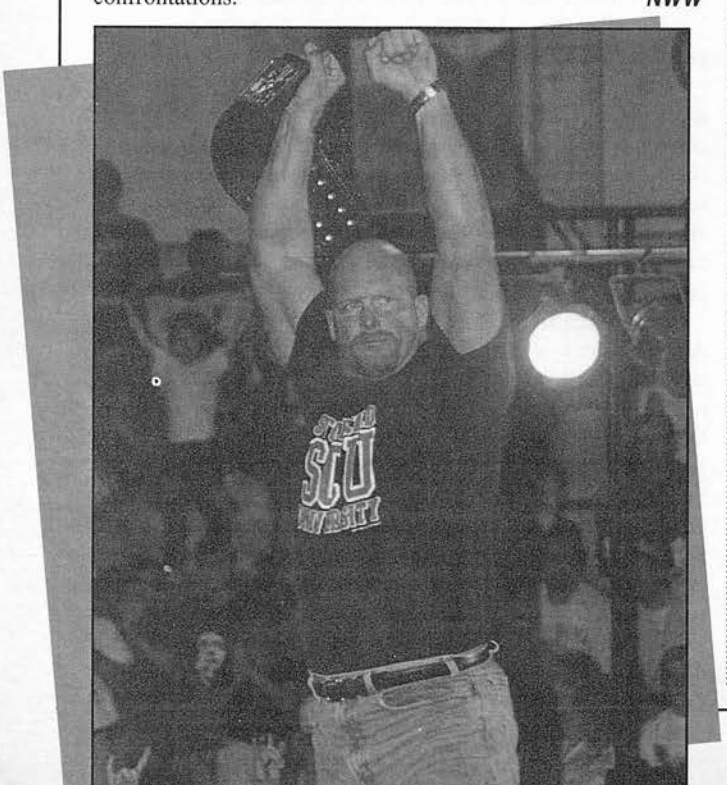
Austin, on the other hand, is everywhere. He's immensely talented and unbelievably charismatic, but—HOLY SMOKE!—he's overexposed to the max on the WWF shows. The tough Texan relentlessly interrupts at various intervals during the TV programs and talks...and talks...and talks.

The underexposure of Bill and the overexposure of Steve may prove to be the defining moment in the history of pro-wrestling's marketing and promotion. Both men have talent; both men have the charisma needed to sustain huge fan bases, and both men have proven that they can get the job done.

Many of today's mat megastars are all talk and no action. Bill Goldberg and Steve Austin have made the reverse true, and their fans wouldn't have it any other way.

Who will ultimately secure the top slot as we approach the millennium? Perhaps the wrestler who can best convey his ability—to do all of his "talking"—in the ring with pure, unadulterated talent and acquired skill will prevail.

At any rate, the time has come for today's top mat athletes to leave the microphones behind and deal with their in-ring confrontations. ***NWW***



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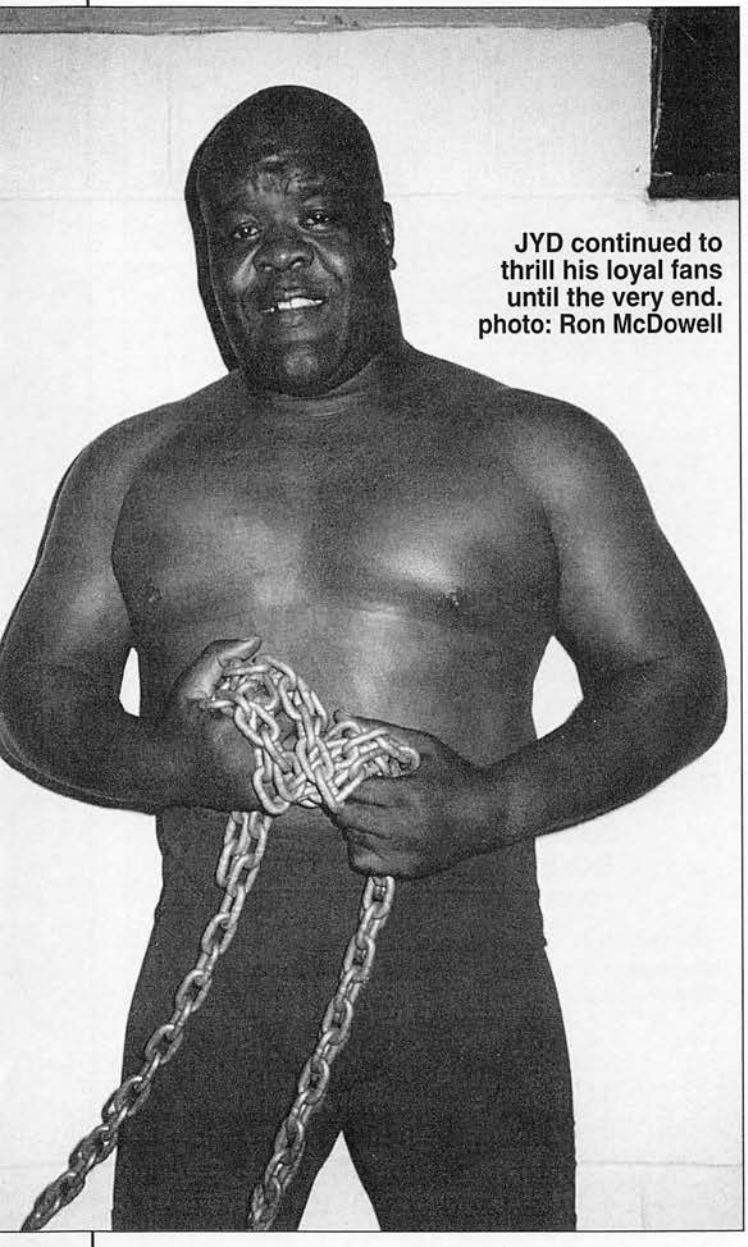
JUNK YARD DOG Sylvester Ritter 1952-1998



JYD continued to thrill his loyal fans until the very end. photo: Ron McDowell

SYLVESTER RITTER, 45, WHO GAINED FAME AS the Junk Yard Dog, died on June 2, 1998 in a single-car automobile accident at approximately 11:40 a.m. on Interstate 20 in the Forest, Mississippi area. Driving home from his daughter's high-school graduation, he fell asleep at the wheel and lost control of the car, which flipped over three times

The Wadesboro, North Carolina native was born on December 13, 1952. Prior to his professional mat career, he attained all-American status as a stellar collegiate gridiron athlete at North Carolina's Fayetteville State University. He graduated with a degree in political science.

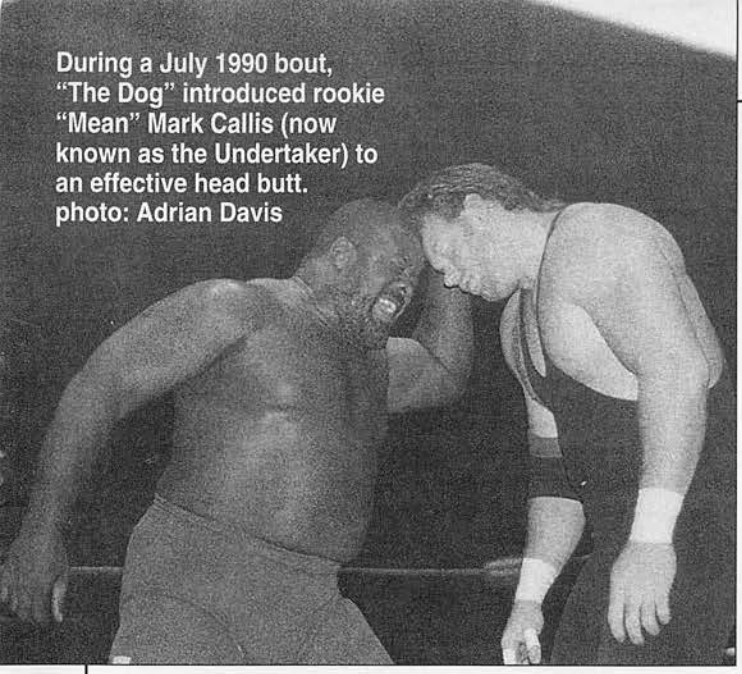
Ritter had a brief stint as a pro-football player with the Green Bay Packers, but severe knee and back injuries abruptly ended his pigskin exploits. In 1979, he turned to the mat sport and began his illustrious career on the famed Stampede Wrestling circuit in Calgary, Canada. With initial training by Stu Hart, the young competitor—wrestling as "Big Daddy" Ritter—quickly adapted to the diverse styles of the promotion. During his tenure on the circuit, he captured the North American heavyweight championship three times. He created the name "Junk Yard Dog" at the end of a tour in Calgary, claiming he took the nickname because he had worked in a junk yard as a teenager.

In the late 1970s and early 1980s, he almost singlehandedly made Promoter Bill Watts' Mid-South promotion the most successful grappling organization in the United States. On many occasions, he filled Louisiana's New Orleans Superdome as a testament to his incredible drawing power. Wherever he appeared—Arkansas, Mississippi, Oklahoma, or Louisiana—the results were always the same with victories and S.R.O. crowds.

He attained four separate title reigns as Mid-South North American heavyweight champion. On June 21, 1982, he defeated champion Bob Roop in New Orleans, Louisiana. His second title reign began on November 25, 1982 when he defeated Ted DiBiase in New Orleans. On April 16, 1983, he won the vacant gold strap for the third time by beating Mr. Olympia (Jerry Stubbs) in the final round of an elimination tournament in New Orleans. His final reign began on October 26, 1983 in Shreveport, Louisiana when he defeated Butch Reed.

During his various North American title reigns, he defeated such noteworthy contenders as "Cowboy" Bob Orton Jr., the Wild Samoans (Afa & Sika Anoai), "The Big Cat" Ernie Ladd,

by Michael O'Hara



During a July 1990 bout, "The Dog" introduced rookie "Mean" Mark Callis (now known as the Undertaker) to an effective head butt.
photo: Adrian Davis

"General" Skandor Akbar, Ted DiBiase, Tully Blanchard, Matt Borne (Matthew Osbourne), One Man Gang (George Gray), Paul Orndorff, The Grappler (Len Denton), Fabulous Freebirds' Michael Hayes (Michael Seitz) & Terry "Bam Bam" Gordy (Terry Mecca).

His success was not limited to the singles division either. With a wide array of seasoned partners which included "Colonel" Buck Robley, Terry Orndorff (Troy Martin, now known as Shane Douglas), "Killer" Karl Kox, "Dirty" Dick Murdoch, Mike George, and Mr. Olympia, "JYD" procured the Mid-South Wrestling Association tag-team straps on eight separate occasions between the years 1980 and 1982.

He was a Mississippi State and three-time Louisiana State champion by virtue of victories over "Apache" Bull Ramos, Ernie Ladd, Terry Gordy, and the Great Kabuki.

He was one of the very first acquisitions of the World Wrestling Federation during their massive expansionary period in 1984. With his unparalleled charisma, Ritter was one of the pivotal players who made it possible for the WWF to garner a nationwide audience, a feat never before achieved in the annals of the grappling game.

With the WWF, he was a continuous threat to Intercontinental heavyweight champion Greg "The Hammer" Valentine, but the championship always seemed to slip away from his grasp because of such technicalities as disqualifications.

Junk Yard Dog enjoyed tremendous success while wrestling in the Federation, and he was involved in many memorable feuds with such main-event stars as "The Natural" Butch Reed, Kamala the Ugandan Giant (James Harris), The Honky Tonk Man (Wayne Ferris), "Outlaw" Ron Bass, and "King" Harley Race, to name a few.

A combination of money, fame and the fast life slowly eroded the popular powerhouse's talents. By the late 1980s, Ritter was working the regional independent circuits, competing before crowds of a thousand or less.

In 1990, he emerged from the depths with a tour of World Championship Wrestling, scoring victories over "Nature Boy" Ric Flair, Arn Anderson, and "Mean" Mark Callis, but unfortunately the revival was short-lived.

At the time of his death, Ritter was hoping to develop a small wrestling circuit in Louisiana and Mississippi where he earned his most impressive ring accomplishments. ***NWW***

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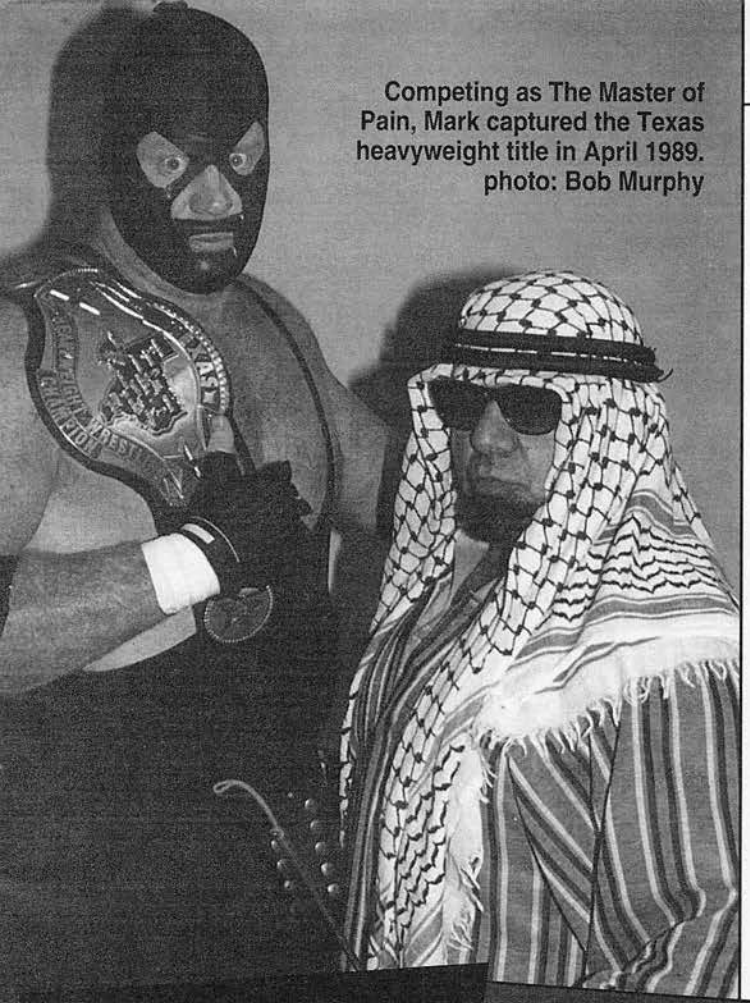
THE UNDERTAKER DOSSIER

A Cantankerous Compendium of Cogent Comments Concerning the Charismatic Crypt-Keeper!

real name: Mark Calaway
other ring aliases: The Master of Pain (USWA, Memphis) • The Punisher (WCWA, Texas) • "Mean" Mark Callis (WCW, Georgia) • "Punisher" Dice Morgan (New Japan Pro Wrestling) • Caine the Undertaker (WWF, Connecticut) • The Undertaker (WWF, Connecticut)
tag-team affiliation: The Skyscrapers with "Sycho" Sid Vicious (Sid Eudy) circa 1990
height: 6 feet 8 inches **weight:** 317 pounds **hometown:** Dallas, Texas
birth date: March 24, 1962 **hobbies:** motorcycles and tattoos
marital status: married, has one daughter
titles held: World Class Wrestling Association Texas heavyweight champion
2-time World Wrestling Federation heavyweight champion
previous managers: General Skandor Akbar (James Wehba), WCWA • Teddy Long, WCW • Paul E. Dangerously (Paul Heyman), WCW • Brother Love (Bruce Prichard), WWF • Paul Bearer (William Moody), WWF
greatest victories: Defeated Hulk Hogan for the WWF title (11/27/91 Detroit, Michigan) • Defeated "Sycho" Sid for the WWF title (3/23/97 Rosemont, Illinois)
weirdest opponents: Papa Shango (Charles Wright), Giant Gonzalez (Jorge Gonzalez), "Underfaker" Brian Lee (Brian Harris), Kamala (James Harris), Brother Kane (Glen Jacobs).

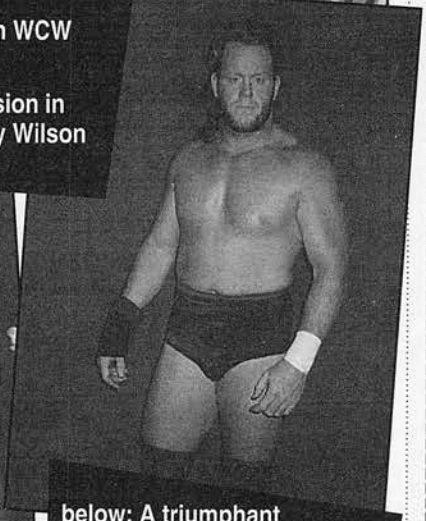
Compiled by Michael O'Hara & Photo by Craig Prendergast



Competing as The Master of Pain, Mark captured the Texas heavyweight title in April 1989. photo: Bob Murphy

right: "Mean " Mark Callis in WCW (1990) photo: John Mills

below: After a grueling session in the gym (1990) photo: Jerry Wilson



below: A triumphant Undertaker after defeating "Sycho" Sid for the WWF title at WrestleMania XIII (3/23/97 Rosemont, Illinois). photo: Buddy Phillips

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A Conversation With

TERRY FUNK

The Hardcore Champion Personified!

NW: IS IT TRUE THAT YOU'VE RETIRED FROM WRESTLING, TERRY?

TF: No, I'm always thinking of retiring from wrestling for good, but I never seem to.

NW: Will you continue to wrestle in Japan besides your WWF commitments?

TF: I just competed against Tarzan Goto over there recently, so I'm keeping very busy.

NW: So you're planning to stay in wrestling at this point in time?

TF: Yes, I am.

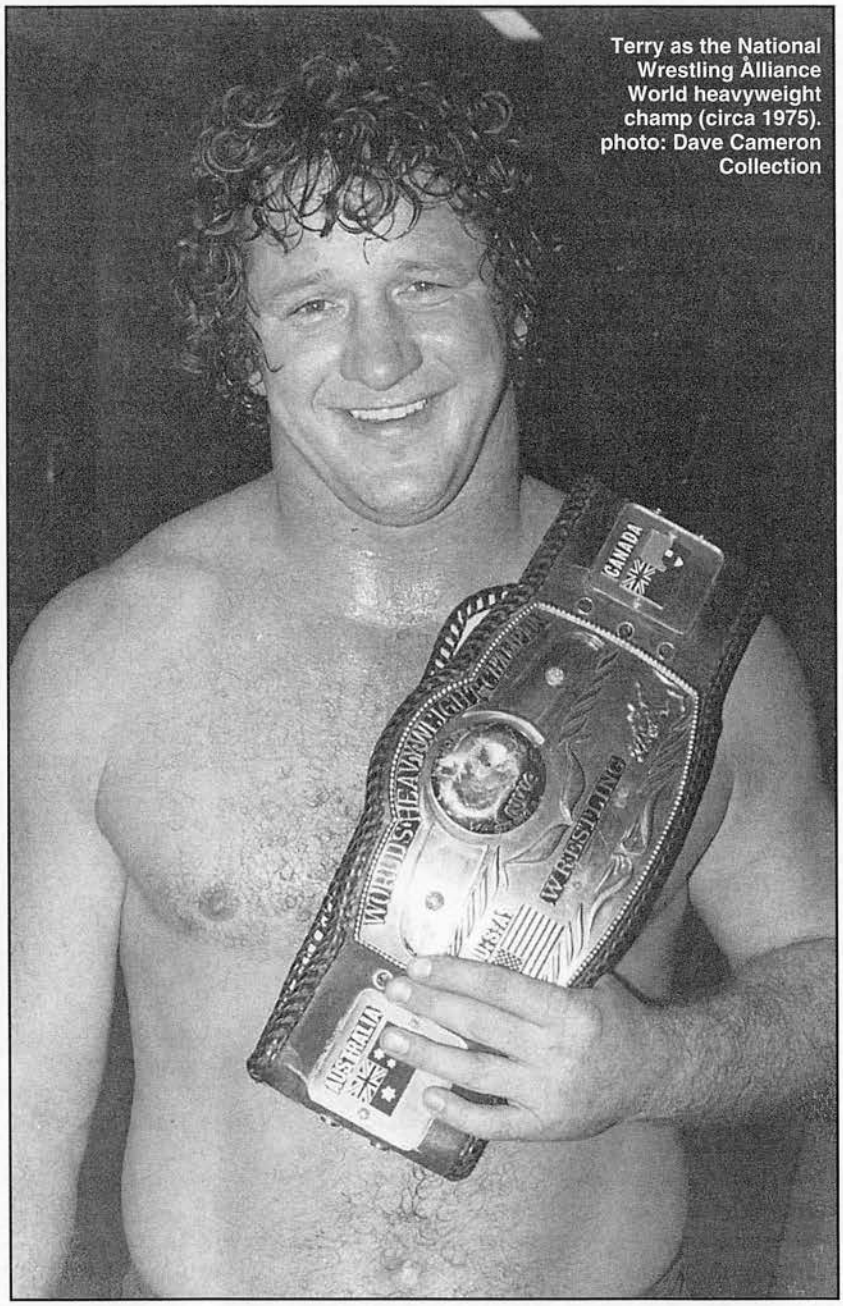
NW: You organized the ECW-affiliated event called *WrestleFest '97*. What was that experience like?

TF: I felt the event was a success. I was in a match against Bret Hart. My brother Dory Funk Jr. wrestled Rob Van Dam, and Sabu competed against Mankind. It was a great card all the way through, but it did turn out to be a very expensive show. I brought in two guys from the Dominican Republic and four guys from Japan for this event. I also brought in the Headhunters and the ECW guys. For anyone interested, the home video is available through ECW.

NW: What do you think of Bret Hart leaving the WWF to go to WCW?

TF: This has happened time and time again in professional wrestling. I have a great deal of admiration and respect for Bret Hart. He did me a great favor by being part of *WrestleFest '97*. Prior to this event, he had never wrestled outside of the WWF. I'm also grateful to Vince McMahon Jr. because he allowed Bret to participate in the show.

Sometimes the wrestling business becomes very tough; this is what happened in Bret's case. It's the wrestling part we all love, not the business part of



Terry as the National Wrestling Alliance World heavyweight champ (circa 1975). photo: Dave Cameron Collection

interview by Kevin Gill

the profession. The business has changed a great deal over the years. It's much more lucrative than it's ever been before, and I guess you have to protect yourself. Promoters have to protect themselves, too, and there's always the potential for a situation like this happening whenever big bucks are involved.

NW: What do you think of the time you've spent working in Extreme Championship Wrestling?

TF: I really, really like all the wrestlers in ECW. They have a tremendous amount of ability, and I admire that. ECW has a bunch of guys who enjoy what they're doing; they're not doing it just to earn a living. My opinion is they put on a better show than all the athletes who are pampered and getting paid a lot more money do. They also have a harder work schedule. They work injured most of the time, but they really love the sport of wrestling.

NW: Many people know you from the movie *Roadhouse*. Which other movies and television shows have you also appeared in?

TF: Yes, I was in *Roadhouse* which starred Patrick Swayze. I also did a couple of TV series. One was called *Wildside*. I really loved working with Meg Ryan, Howard Rollins, William Smith, and John DeAquino. They're a bunch of good actors. It was a western, and I had a role I really enjoyed and felt comfortable doing. I did another series called *Tequila and Bennetti.* It was about a cop and a dog. It ran for 13 episodes. I've been a guest star on *Quantum Leap*, appeared on Hulk Hogan's shows, and was in several Sylvester Stallone movies.

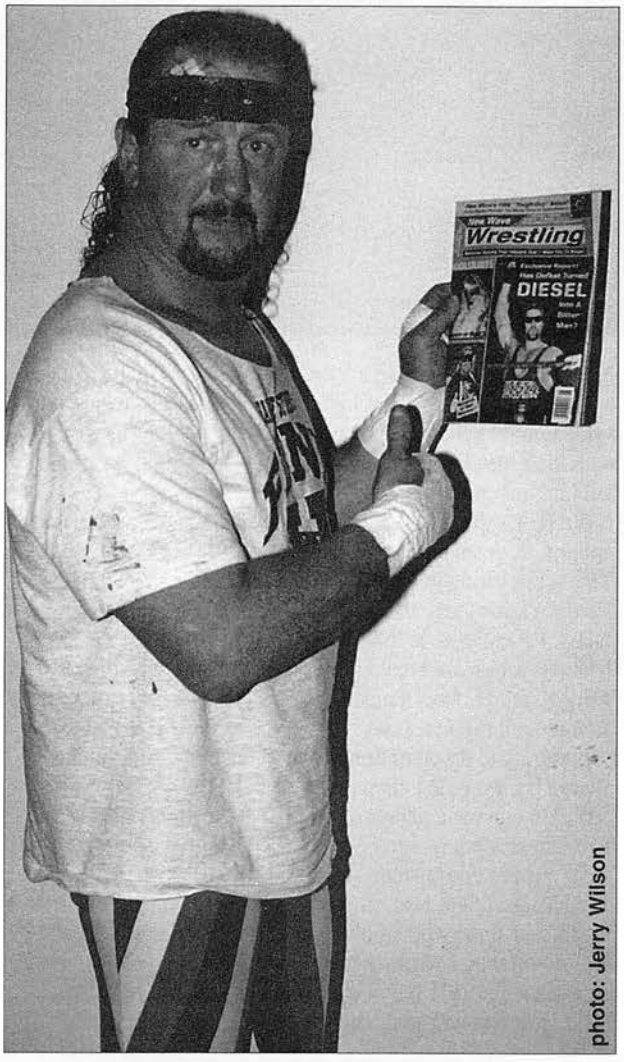
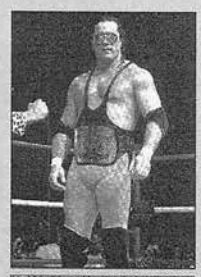


photo: Jerry Wilson

I've also done a couple of movies that are somewhere out there. *[Laughs]* They weren't extensively released. I've had my share of them, but, gosh, if one of them could have made it, it would have been wonderful. The television shows weren't picked up for a second season, but that's just the way it goes in the entertainment business. I'm in a better situation than most people are, so I can't complain. It's a tough business, just like wrestling, but I have lots of fun doing it. I've also written a script that I hope will get picked up.

NW: Well, you're lucky to have to been able to pursue both acting and wrestling.



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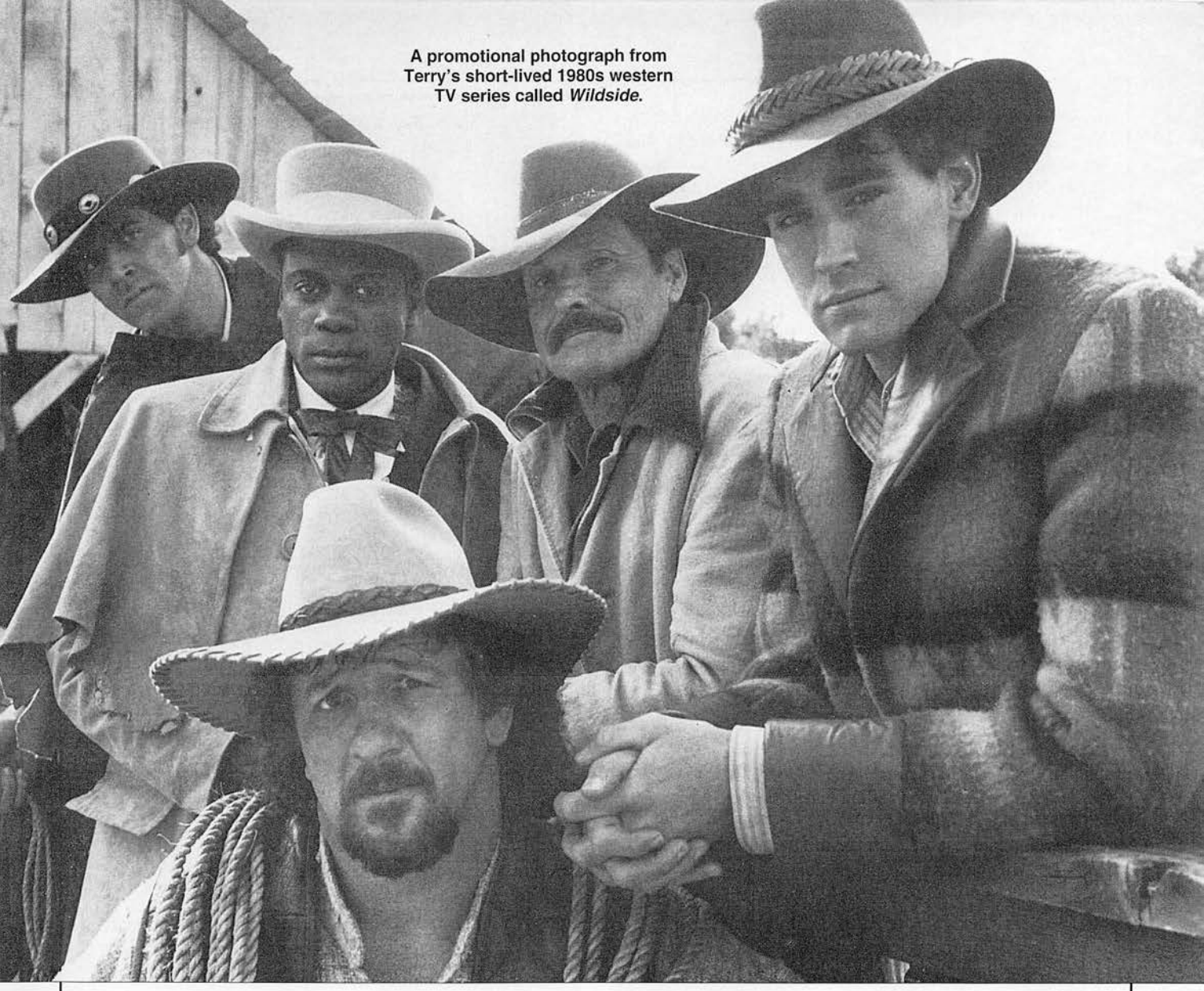

A promotional photograph from Terry's short-lived 1980s western TV series called *Wildside.*

TF: Yes, I am lucky. Wrestling is one thing, but it does have its limitations. I certainly know that at my age. Acting isn't everything either; however, if you're 75 years old and there's a role that you're right for, there's still a possibility of fulfilling that dream. There comes a point when you have to stop wrestling. Acting is different; there's always hope for a role.

NW: Are there any other Funk family members who are making an impact in the wrestling business?

TF: Not really. My brother Dory has two boys; one is a doctor and the other, a teacher. His daughter is a homemaker. I have two daughters. One taught biology in high school and the other was a registered nurse, but they are now flight attendants. They like flying, so they love what they're doing right now. I like it, too, because I can fly anywhere I want for a vacation; if there's something I want to do for the heck of it, it's a very nice deal.

NW: Have you trained any wrestling stars?

TF: I think I've helped many of them. As far as training present-day stars, I really haven't trained many of them; I live in the middle of Texas and I'm pretty much isolated out here. When we were running the territory from out here in the past, we trained many boys.

If I have a chance to help somebody now, I will. Many guys have asked me for advice over the years. If anyone asks me for help, I'll give them some honest advice; that's what I'm always asking for and that's what I always look for. I just won't say something to make a guy happy. I'll tell them what's wrong with their match, but if something they do is good, I certainly tell him that, too.

NW: That's the way to be. People always appreciate an honest opinion from someone they admire.

TF: Many young guys need guidance. I'm glad they think I have the knowledge they seek. I certainly don't mind being asked; I'll try to be helpful in any way I can.

NW: How did you break into the world of pro wrestling?

TF: My father, Dory Funk Sr., was a pro wrestler, so I've been around it all my life. It was my very first love. I've had the opportunity to do other things, but I chose wrestling. It has always been my first choice.

NW: Do you have many friends in the wrestling business?

TF: Oh, absolutely. I have many friendships. There are lots of great guys in this business, such as Lou Thesz, Harley Race, Ted DiBiase, Stan Hansen, Tully Blanchard, the guys in All-Japan, and some who aren't here with us anymore like Pat O'Connor, who I wish were still here. I try not to dwell on the past or the future, I stay with what is happening in the present.

NW: How has wrestling changed since you first began?

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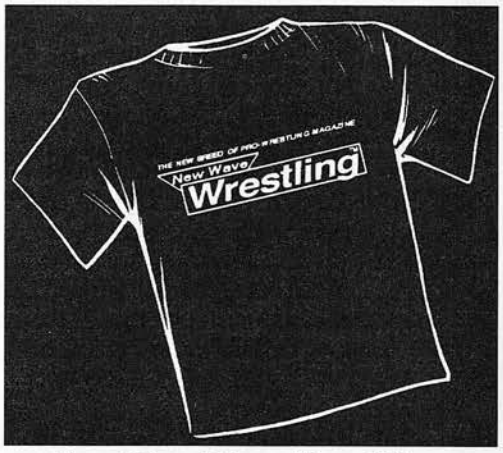

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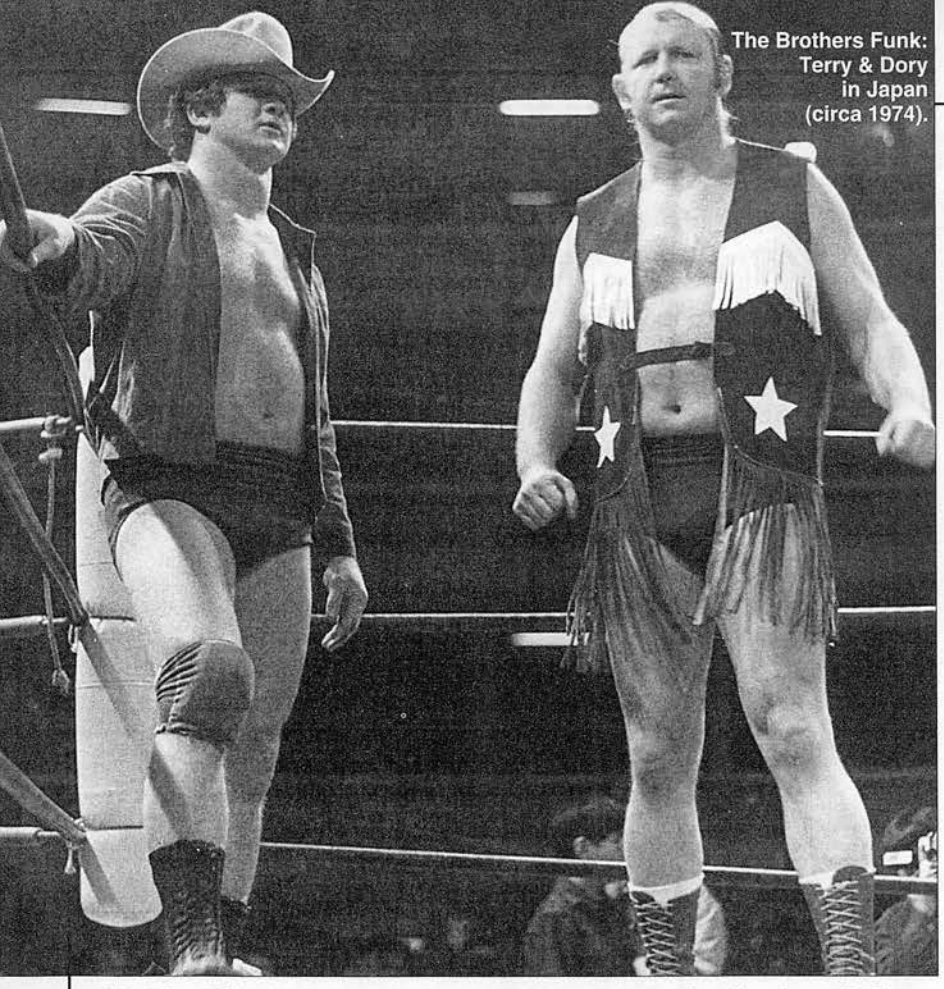


The Brothers Funk: Terry & Dory in Japan (circa 1974).

TF: When I first began wrestling over 30 years ago, you could drive to the arena in only a day. Today the world is at your doorstep because of airplanes. Cable TV was also a major change in the world of pro wrestling. We're now seeing changes in technology like the Internet. People are much more interested in all the intricacies of wrestling than they used to be. They're interested in what happened to Bret Hart in Toronto, Canada, and they're interested in all the inside stuff they never cared about before; the fans are having an impact on the ratings with their opinions.

NW: Do you watch wrestling on TV?

TF: I really don't watch it that much. I've always said that if I were a plumber, I wouldn't want to watch somebody else fix a toilet. I don't mean it in an insulting way, it's just how I feel.

NW: What kind of injuries have you had from wrestling?

TF: I've had two compression fractures in my back; I broke my neck, and my shoulders were knocked out. God only knows how many stitches and concussions I've had over the years. My knee has been operated on. I can go on and on with my list of injuries; however, I would do it all over again and not feel bad about it. I'm sure that later on there'll be an aftereffect from all of my injuries, but that's the way it goes.

NW: Fred Blassie said that when he was a wrestling heel he was occasionally attacked by fans in and out of the arena. Has this ever happened to you?

TF: Yes, indeed. I've had guns pulled on me, I've been stabbed a couple of times, and I've been in the middle of full-blown riots in Florida, Texas, and Puerto Rico. I guess this assures me that I was good in my match! *[Laughs]*

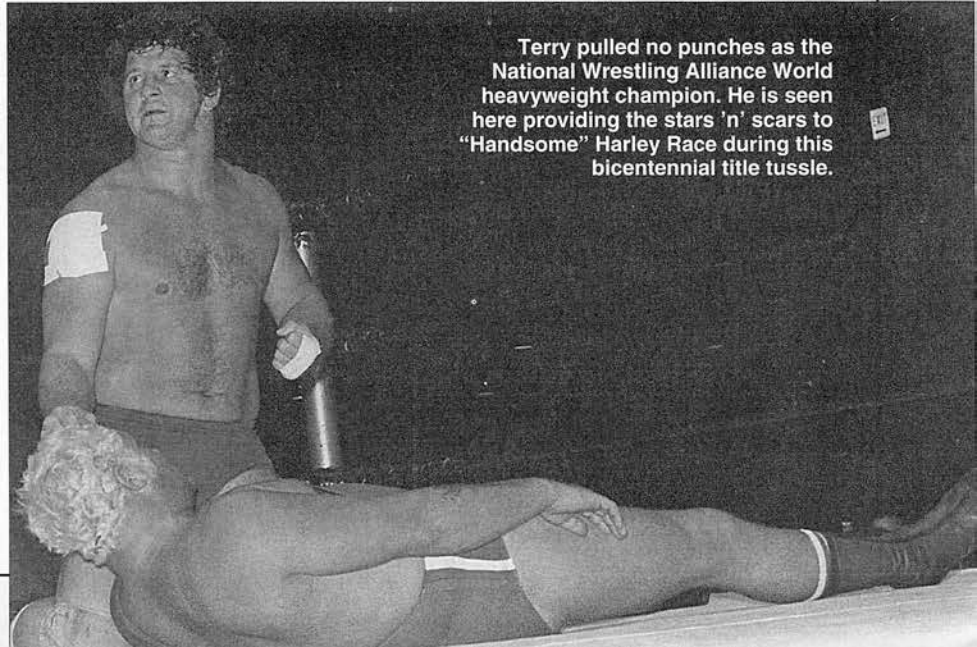
NW: Who were some of the toughest opponents you've ever faced in the ring?

TF: I've just about wrestled everyone in this business. It really depends on the time period you're talking about and what their wrestling style was. In his prime, Abdullah the Butcher was a very tough opponent. He came running at you with knives and forks and whatever else he could get his hands on. I've had some tremendous matches with Harley Race, who had a very different style than I did. I've also had some great matches with Jack Brisco as well as Lou Thesz, Pat O'Connor, Ted DiBiase, and Bret Hart. I enjoyed wrestling Bret Hart very much. I like tough matches.

NW: What about wrestling in ECW with Raven as your opponent? They looked like some of the hardest matches I've ever seen.

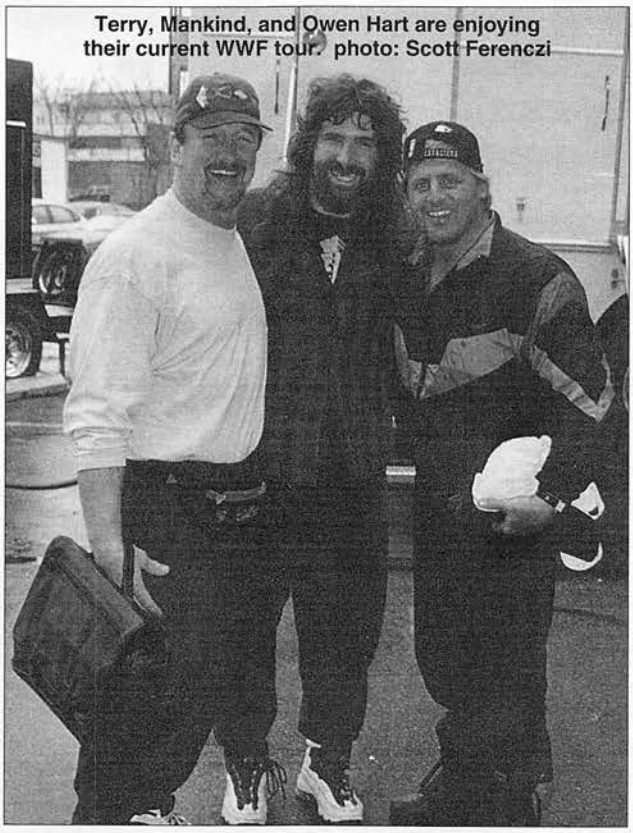
TF: As time passes, the fans demand more. In this day and age you have a different style of toughness. You'd wrestle for 60 minutes, even 90 minutes at times, and those matches were physically hard and tough. Today's pace is faster. The moves are more dynamic. The risk level is much greater than it ever was before. I don't think there will be longevity in this business like there was in the 1960s and 70s.

Some guys may prevail because of their position in the organization, but today's rookies have to take tremendous risks in the world of wrestling that we didn't have to take before. It's very competitive now with TV and pay-per-view shows. It used to be the wrestling package was the number of stars who were on the show. Today the package is the number of different crazy matches that are very demanding on the participants.



Terry pulled no punches as the National Wrestling Alliance World heavyweight champion. He is seen here providing the stars 'n' scars to "Handsome" Harley Race during this bicentennial title tussle.

NW: What does a pro wrestler need to make it in this business?
TF: Besides having talent, you need charisma. This element is hard to explain. You can't really pinpoint it, but it's something you have or you don't. It's the way a person carries themselves. Lou Thesz and Dusty Rhodes had it. It's the ability to draw people to the arena. That's very important in wrestling.
NW: Do you have any regrets about your career?
TF: I regret not being able to do it all over again. When you consider the amount of matches I've wrestled in, there aren't many people who have stayed on top for over 30 years like I have. This is a very difficult thing to do in this business, so I'm proud of my record.
NW: I've seen that your brother Dory has a website. Are you on the Internet?
TF: No, I'm not, but I am very interested in the Internet; I'm in awe of the power that it has over the wrestling business and business in general.


Terry, Mankind, and Owen Hart are enjoying their current WWF tour. photo: Scott Ferenczi

People pay a great deal of attention to the information on the Internet. You can really find out what people think about things because their response is immediate. This will influence everything from the stock market to wrestling's television ratings from one night to the next.

Pro wrestling is finding its niche on the Internet, and it's growing all the time. I think the Internet is an amazing technology!
NW: Thanks, Terry, for taking the time to do this interview. Best of luck to you!
TF: Take care! ***NWW***

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NW: HOW DID YOU GET INTERESTED IN THIS BUSINESS, BILL?
BA: I grew up in Tampa Bay, Florida and wrestling was big here. There used to be about 20 different wrestling territories in the United States, such as Texas, Georgia, and the Mid-Atlantic. Florida was one of the greatest territories.

Anyway, my dad was friends with a sports editor who used to write up the results of the Tuesday-night matches. One day he gave my father some wrestling passes, and my dad, in turn, gave them to me. I was about 10 years old and had never watched wrestling before. I didn't even know what it was. I didn't want to go at first, but then I became curious. I asked a friend to go with me, and I've been a fan ever since. Over time, I got to know all the characters and personalities, but I didn't know what went on backstage.

I fell in love with the sport. I wanted to be a wrestler, but after six years I was still 165 pounds soaking wet. I knew it wasn't going to happen. My stepbrother, David Sierra, known as the Cuban Assassin, grew up to be 295 pounds, and he went into wrestling. He was instrumental in getting me into the game as a referee.

NW: Who was wrestling back then?
BA: Eddie Graham, the Funk brothers, and Jack and Jerry Brisco were wrestling there at the time. It seemed like all the best talent in the country were in Florida. The talent pool never got stale.
NW: How many years have you been in the business?
BA: I went into it full-time in 1980. Three years were spent in the minor leagues. Dusty Rhodes gave me my first job as a referee. The first time I ever got paid was in Lubbock, Texas. I was paid $90 to referee three matches. The main

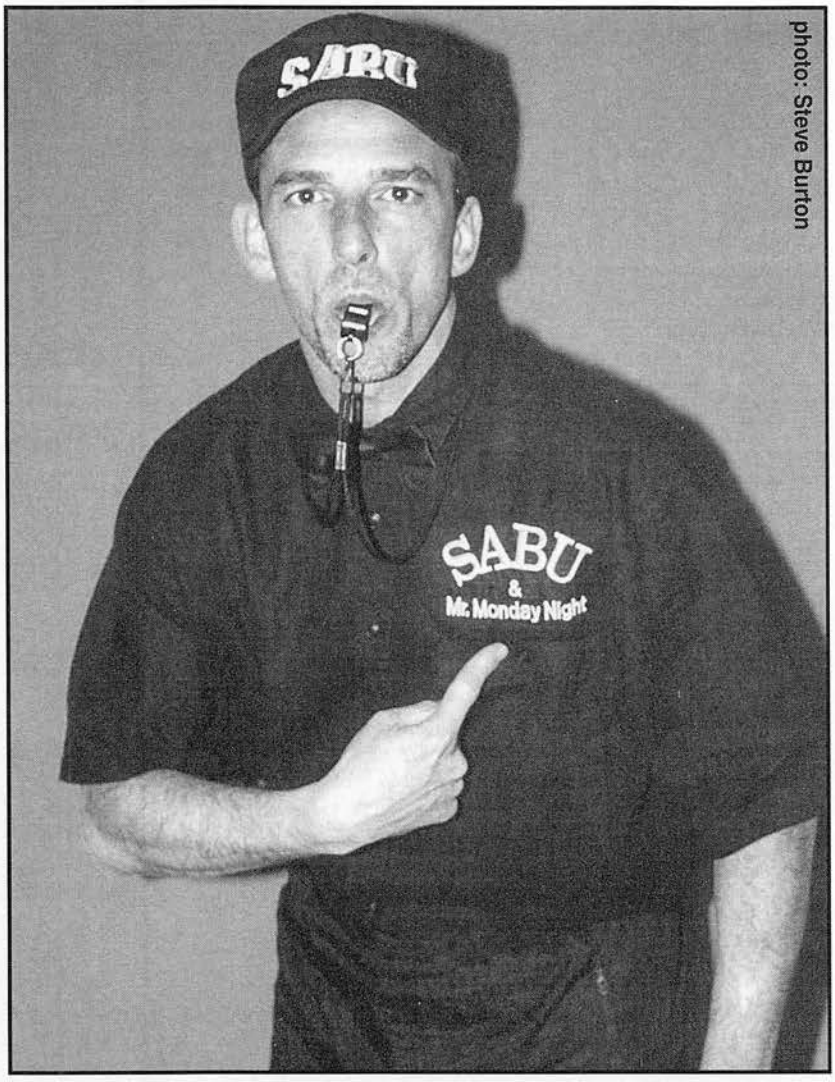


photo: Steve Burton

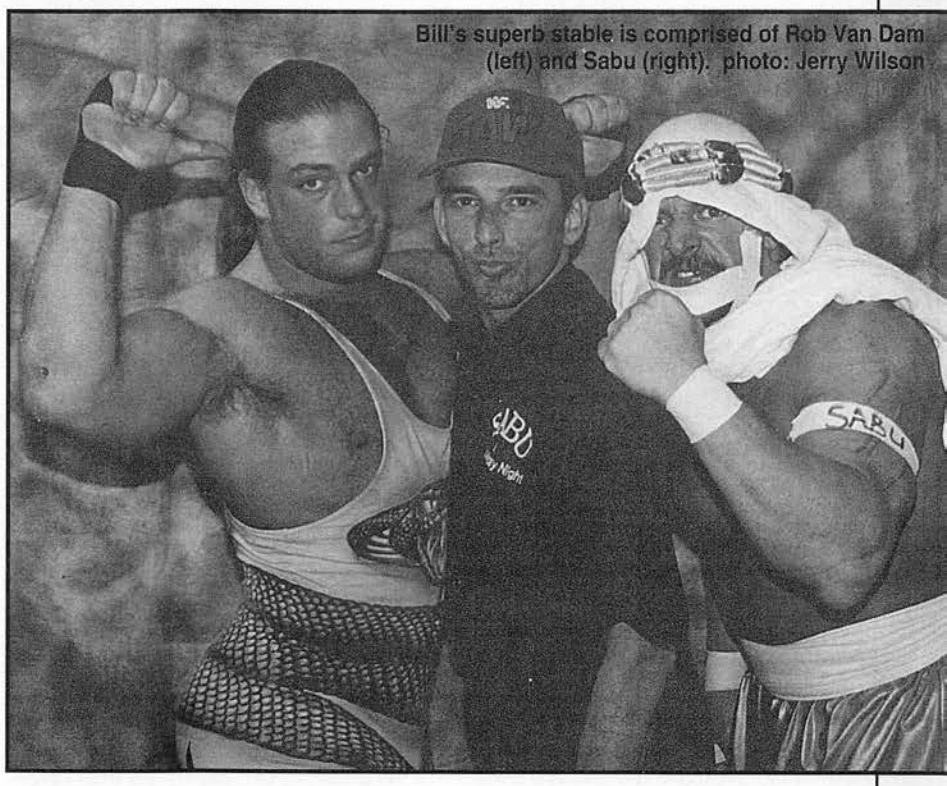
event was Terry Funk and the Sheik in a chain match! My first big gig! I manage Sabu now, who is the Sheik's nephew. It turned out the Sheik liked me after all, even after he stabbed me with a pencil.
NW: He stabbed you during your first match?
BA: Yes, and he ripped my shirt off! It wasn't like he said he was going to rip my shirt off, so act scared. It was nothing like that. He was a scary guy, and I was a young kid who he thought knew about the business. The Sheik grabbed me and violently ripped my shirt off and stabbed me in the head with a pencil. He stabbed me in the arm, too! I have a lead

interview by Kevin Gill & Don Laible

mark on my arm to this day. My first night with the Sheik was wild.
NW: What was it like working for the National Wrestling Alliance and WCW?
BA: When the NWA was purchased by Ted Turner, it was basically the same crew of guys with Dusty Rhodes, the Crockett family, Barry Windham, and Ric Flair as the leaders. As a referee, I was always made to feel like I belonged. I was always included in all the get-togethers from parties to fishing trips.
NW: As a referee, which matches stick out in your mind the most?
BA: The Ric Flair versus Tatsumi Fujinami match in Tokyo with 60,000 people in the house sticks in my mind. Being in the Tokyo Dome gave me goose bumps! I was in the ring for the *Last Tangle in Tampa* card when Dusty took the NWA strap from Harley Race in August of 1979. My first time officiating in New York City's Madison Square Garden was special. I couldn't believe I was there. Participating in *Wrestlemania* at Caesar's Palace or Boston Garden was great. For goodness sake, I dressed in Larry Bird's old locker!
NW: Do you enjoy being a manager?
BA: Yes, I was a referee for 16 years and I had my fill of it. I enjoyed being a referee and I was good at it.

Many wrestling stars like Ric Flair and Hulk Hogan would ask me to referee their matches. I would really get into it because the referee is part of the match, but I like this opportunity to try something new and different.
NW: What was a day in the life of a referee like? What's the routine?
BA: I'll give you a typical week in the WWF. We'd be on the road for seven days. I'd leave my house on Monday morning from Tampa Bay, Florida and fly to Newark, New Jersey, rent a car, then drive to Poughkeepsie, New York to do a *Monday Night Raw*. I'd get there early afternoon and spend the rest of the day doing what I do. You guys know what referees do, you've seen it on television, right? After the show you go back to your hotel, eat a little food, have a couple of drinks, go to bed, and the next morning you get up and drive to the next town.

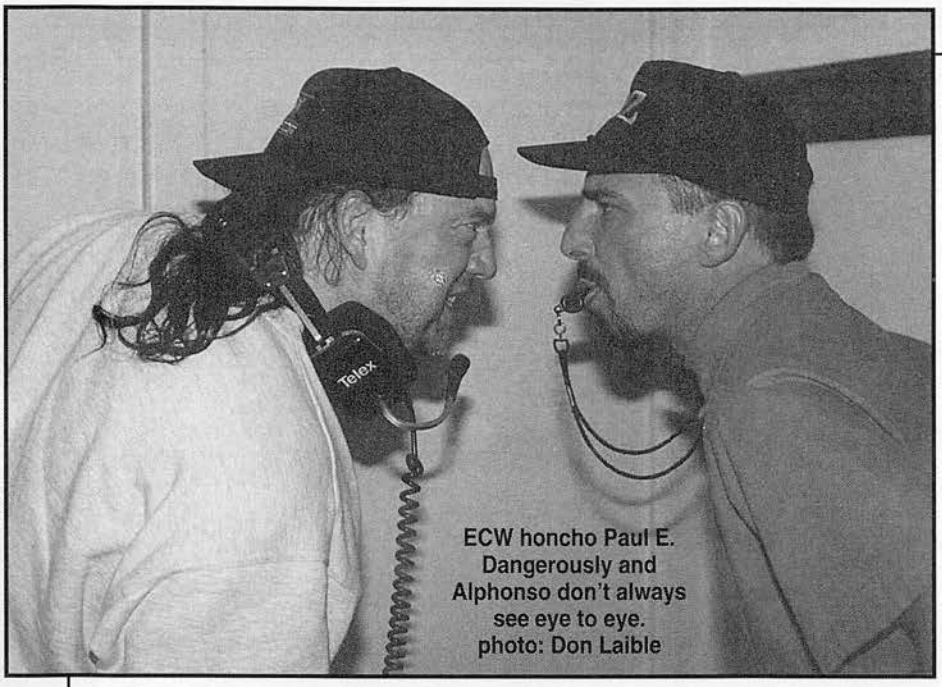
We'd do TV shows on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. On Thursday, I would drive back to Newark airport, fly to San Diego, California, do a show there that night, then drive two hours to Los Angeles, catch a plane in the morning to Honolulu, Hawaii, get there in the early evening, go to the arena, do the show, catch a red-eye to San Francisco, get there in the morning for a show, go back to the airport and catch a red-eye back to Tampa. That's a hectic week!



Bill's superb stable is comprised of Rob Van Dam (left) and Sabu (right). photo: Jerry Wilson

There have also been some pretty laid-back weeks that were fun because the traveling was pretty cool.
NW: That's a lot of time on the road. Did someone travel with you?
BA: I would travel with different guys. I liked to travel with the main-event guys; I was single and we'd hang out and go to lots of parties. I'd get the green light to get into any party if I walked in with Ric Flair or Hulk Hogan; otherwise, I would have to wait on line like everybody else. Traveling with the top guys is much more fun.
NW: Did you travel overseas?
BA: When I was with the WWF in the 1980s, I was making great money and seeing the world. It was a thrilling time in my life. The WWF was red-hot and were selling out nearly every building they booked. Like the wrestlers, I was being booked on the weekends for double shots [two separate shows a day].

On one WWF tour, they had us working in six countries and ten cities in ten days. Physically, it was hard to adjust because of the different time zones. I traveled to France, Scotland, Germany, England, Austria, to name only a few. My favorite stop was Tokyo, Japan.
NW: You were living out of a suitcase.
BA: Yes, I've missed many Christmases, Thanksgivings, and birthdays. That isn't a particularly warm feeling. I celebrated my birthday alone in a restaurant instead of being with my daughter. That's an aspect of wrestling I won't miss when I retire; I'll only miss the friendships.
NW: What do you think of ECW's role in wrestling today?
BA: Oh, the big picture? I think ECW has it's own audience. The WWF wanted to get the whole family involved—mother, father, and the three kids—have them enjoy themselves and come back. Our audience is more like Howard Stern's audience. We're outcasts, we're different. We have a following. ECW has a place in this business, and we've proven it these last few years with our pay-per-views. We've really taken off.
NW: How did you make the transition from referee to manager?
BA: When wrestling began losing its popularity in 1994, Vince McMahon Jr. had to cut some expenses in the WWF, and I was one of them. He also cut office personnel, agents, and he cut down on some talent. He said 'Fonz, I'm not closing the door on you, but I'm cutting down 30%, so here's a check for $10 thousand to help you get by. Good luck.



ECW honcho Paul E. Dangerously and Alphonso don't always see eye to eye. photo: Don Laible

If the door opens, if we can use you, we'll call you.'

I was out of work for about four months when ECW's executive producer Paul Heyman called me. He knew me from Florida and WCW. He saw some raw, hidden talent in me that I didn't even know I had because I was involved in being a referee for so many years.

Anyway, he asked me to come to ECW. I didn't know anything about ECW, other than it was a small company in Philadelphia. I wasn't doing anything, so I agreed to come up. When I got there, he told me ECW's really extreme, really violent. They're blood and guts, and what I've never seen before. I've been with the WWF and they're family entertainment, but ECW's hardcore and they needed a little twist in their storylines. Since I seemed very conservative, I would come in to police the extreme stuff. I agreed to do it and people immediately hated me!

Paul Heyman knew I had something people would love to hate, the whistle. Oh, man, when I first came in I didn't want to blow the whistle. I said people are going to hate me, and Paul said that's the idea. Now I love the whistle. People are always asking me if I'm the guy who blows the whistle.

NW: Is that when your title was Head Referee?

BA: Senior Official was my title. My character came in and saw all this blood and stuff, so I stopped matches. They had this Taipei Glove Death Match where two guys would fight each other using broken glass. Just before the match, I ran out and said this can't happen. It's illegal, you can't do this in Pennsylvania. I'm on the State Athletic Commission, so I know. Well, the people wanted to kill me because they've been waiting two months for this! I blew their party! They hated me, and it just took off from there. I was just going to come in for eight weeks, get choke-slammed by somebody, and that would be the end of it, but my character took off—people hated me so much that ECW wanted me to keep doing what I was doing—and I enjoyed it. I was making money and having a good time, and it went to my head a little bit. Not really, but my character has a big head, so my eight week tour has lasted over three years now.

Before I burned out and people got tired of me, I picked up an injured Taz. He hadn't found his true self in the ring yet. Taz had it all the time, but he just didn't know how to let it out, so we created Taz. It really took off, and I was back on top again. After Taz developed his own character, he didn't need me anymore, so I went with a guy who did need me—Sabu. He doesn't talk, and this guy's really out of his mind.

NW: You seem to have a more active role with Sabu. He calls to you during a match when he needs something.

BA: We clicked together because Sabu is traditionally from the old school of wrestling. His uncle is the Sheik, the real originator of violence 30 years ago. The Sheik broke Sabu in, trained him, and was his mentor. I came from the same wrestling background. I've been around for 20 years, so we really admire and respect one another. I help Sabu when he needs a little tape or superglue to keep him going in the ring.

NW: Have you patterned yourself after any other managers?

BA: No. I just gathered all my experiences and wrapped them all into one package. Paul Heyman helped me develop my character. He gave me guidelines. Some people say I bring back memories of Wild Red Berry, which I take as a compliment. I think he was one of the greatest managers of all time.

NW: As a referee, have you ever had fans try to physically hurt you?

BA: People have pulled guns on me; people have punched me while I was walking back to the dressing room; a guy bit me on the forehead; a guy tried to run me off the road, and I've had many threats as well.

NW: Is it worse as a manager?

BA: You have to be careful at the arena. There's a lot of hostility. In the heat of the moment, a guy might want to kill me, but the same guy will want to buy me a drink later, so it works itself out. Sometimes there are really crazy people who can't separate fantasy from reality, and these are the people you have to watch out for. Basically, everybody's pretty cool.

NW: Were you ever injured as a referee?

BA: Many times, it's hard to remember them all. I was choke-slammed by the tallest man in the sport, Giant Gonzalez. He got excited one night during a WWF match and choke-slammed me real hard. This guy is over 7 feet tall. He had me 12 feet in the air and then drove me down to the mat very hard. It knocked me out cold and messed up my back. I've had back surgery.

Wahoo McDaniel hit me in the head with the championship belt by accident. He was trying to hit Sgt. Slaughter, who ducked, and Wahoo hit me instead. I had to get 60 stitches in my head. This was in the Mid-Atlantic area in 1983 or 1984.

NW: Weren't you an interpreter for Giant Gonzales in the WWF?

BA: Yes, he was a good friend of mine. I assisted him for two years because his English was poor. I made sure his travels went smoothly. He saved his money, invested in real estate in his native Argentina, and today is a wealthy man. Bad knees and diabetes put a cramp on his wrestling career.

NW: How do you feel about the state of

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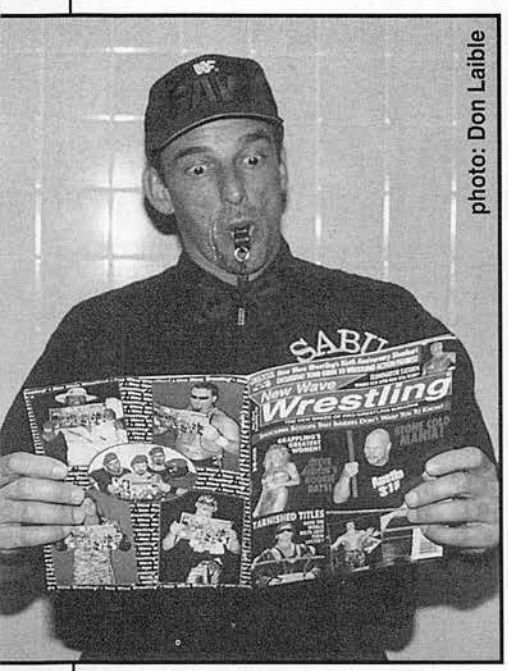
wrestling today?
BA: It's changed, but it's doing great. The wrestling business keeps coming up with new stuff. They explore new avenues because they have to give the people what they want.
NW: Have you sustained many injuries?
BA: If I get put through a table, I need ten days to recuperate. I've been through a dozen tables in my career. I almost died from an ECW match. Beulah hit me with a frying pan, which busted my head open and severed arteries and nerves. I still experience numbness.

I've watched the tape over a hundred times. I've timed it and I still don't know why I didn't stop the match to go to the hospital. The match went on for 7:15 minutes. I started bleeding during the first 30 seconds of the match, so I continued to wrestle for close to 7 minutes. I spent 2 more minutes crawling back to the dressing room, and then the medics took me to the hospital.

They said I lost 30% of the blood in my body. I was very close to dying. They couldn't stop the bleeding at the arena. They gauzed me, put a metal plate over the gauze, taped it real hard, then rushed me to the hospital.

After the doctors stopped the bleeding, they said I had to stay in bed for seven days. I left the hospital, went home and drank juice, then I came back to ECW.

I also separated my shoulder twice and dislocated some fingers, and I'm just a manager!
NW: Is there a great deal of partying on the road?



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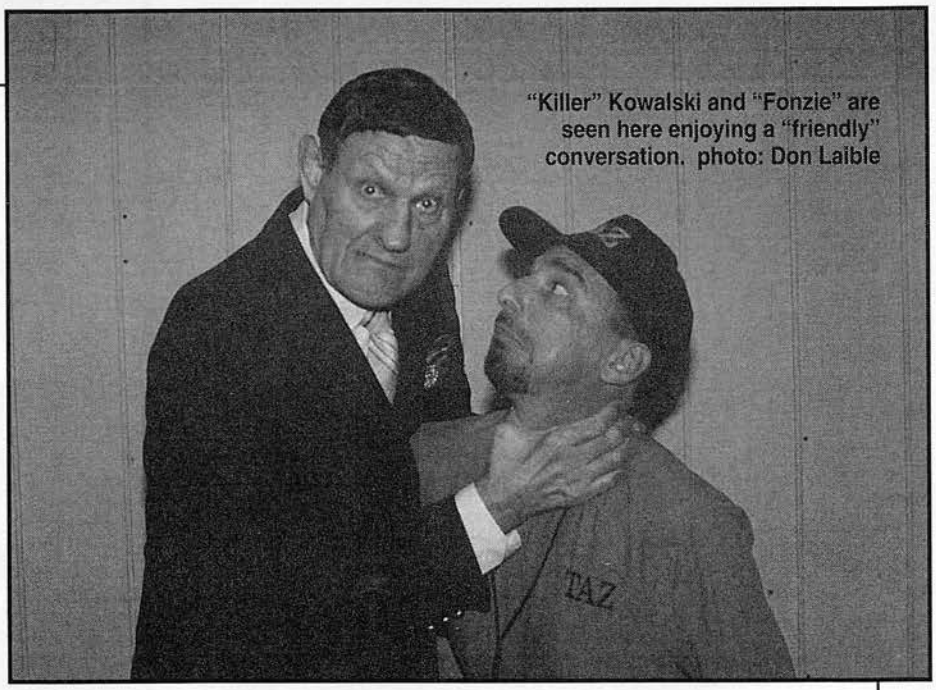


"Killer" Kowalski and "Fonzie" are seen here enjoying a "friendly" conversation. photo: Don Laible

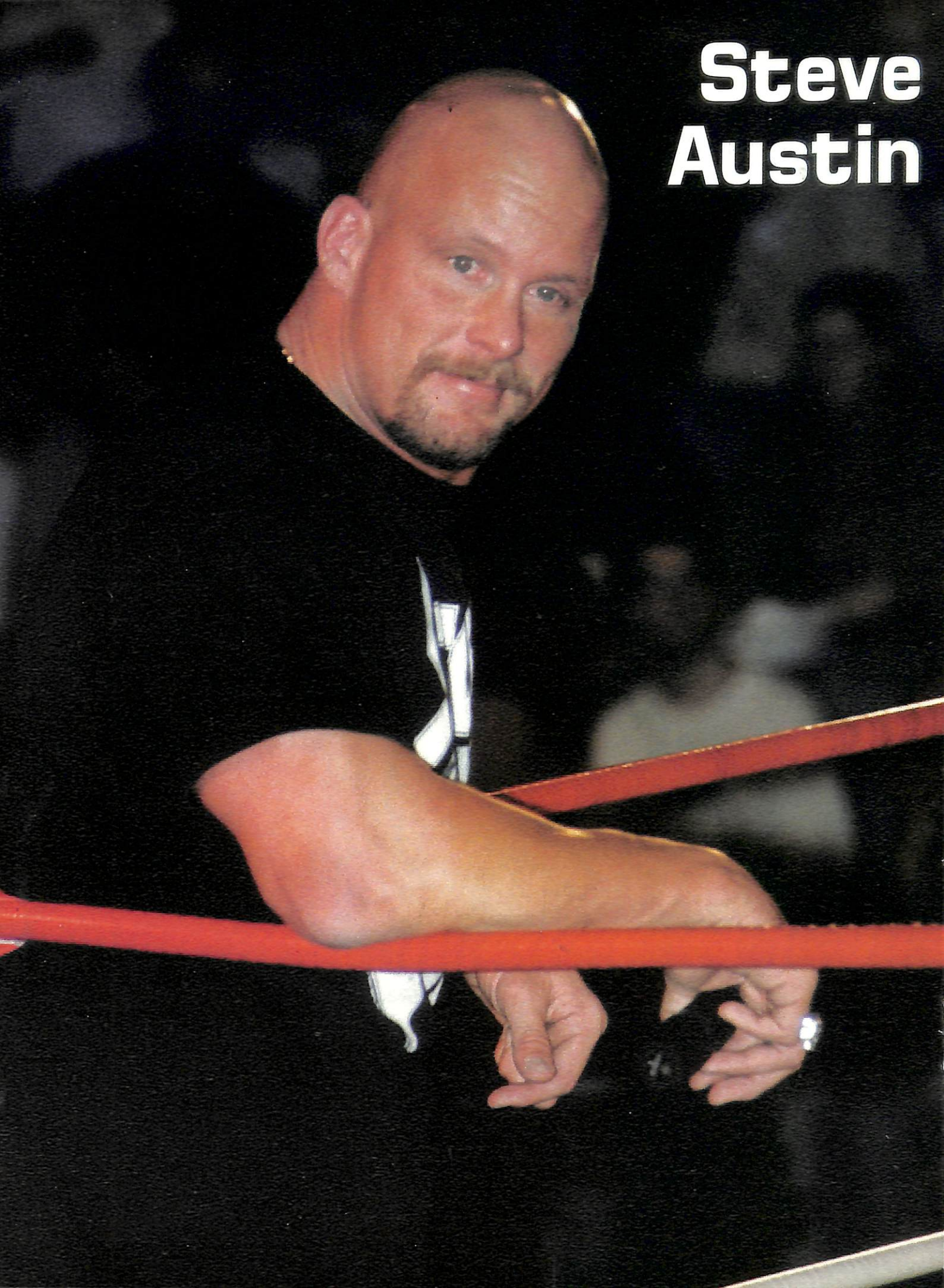
BA: The WWF and WCW have a drug policy. No pills, no coke, no pot, no problem! I'm not a drug addict, but I'm 40 years old and was brought up in the 1970s. I wasn't much of a drinker until I got on the road. After the matches, everybody goes back to the hotel to eat and have a few drinks at the bar. You go to bed and do it all over again the next day. I started out having two or three drinks a night, then it began to get ahead of me, but I have it under control now.
NW: Have you had any offers from the WWF or WCW?
BA: About a year after I started working in ECW, I received a call from WCW to do TV tapings in Florida. One of the agents called me not knowing I was working for ECW.

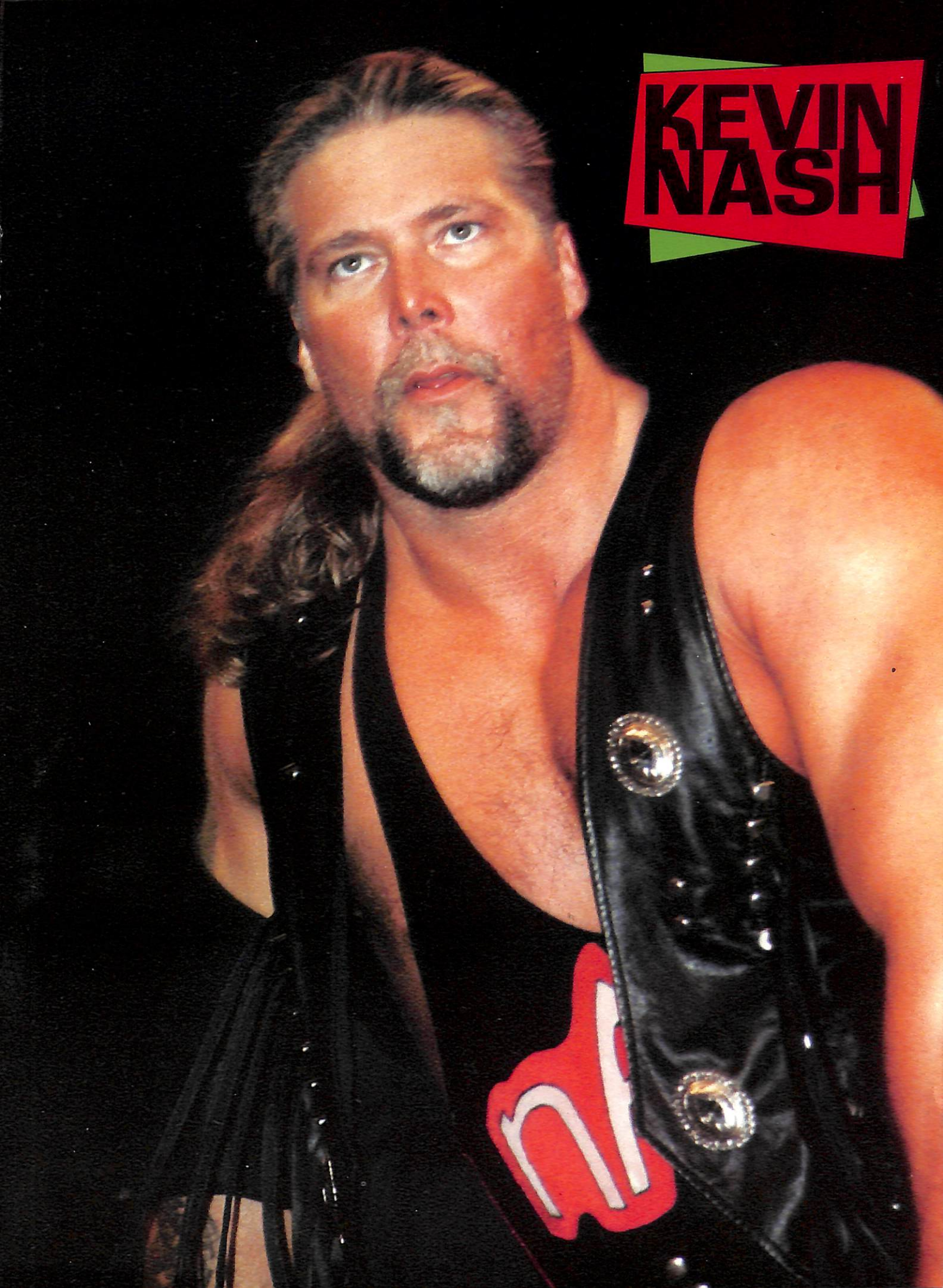
Anyway, I thought I'd work for both groups. The next day WCW called back and said Eric Bischoff saw my name on the list and didn't want me because I'm with ECW. Hey, it's their loss not mine.

Now that ECW's a threat, they're always raiding our talent pool. Look at Raven, he's with WCW now. He has a deal for over a million dollars. How can you turn down an offer like that?
NW: Where do you see yourself ten years down the road?
BA: I'd like to be some sort of an agent working behind the scenes for ECW.
NW: What are your thoughts on Louie Spicolli's death?
BA: I hope we learn from his life and death. It's so unfortunate. I am just sick. It's hard on the road because wrestling's part of the entertainment business. It's parties, it's hotels, and it's so easy to get involved with pills to wake you up in the morning and pills to make you go to sleep at night. Guys get injured, so there are pills to relax your muscles, pills for your back injury, and pills for your headache. I worked with Louie for a year and a half in the WWF and I worked with him in ECW. He was a great asset, a great talent in the ring.
NW: Do you think these deaths hurt the business?
BA: Sadly, if someone dies, there is always someone who will take their spot. We live in a world that is full of talent.

Look at how many new kids are coming in. Where did Goldberg come from? He just came out of nowhere!
NW: Do you have any friends in ECW?
BA: Sandman is a cool guy. He believes in the business, and I like him very much. I also like Todd Gordon. In the ring we are archenemies, but outside the ring we are best friends.
NW: What advice would you give to fans who want to enter the wrestling ranks?
BA: My advice is to be a true athlete. Being at the right place at the right time doesn't hurt either. The faster you perfect your skills, the quicker the promoters will put you in the ring; however there are no guarantees in this business, I'm sad to say.
NW: Do you have any closing words?
BA: Please give ECW a chance. I think we'll entertain you.
NW: Thank you, Bill, for opening up to our readers.
BA: It was cool talking about things I haven't thought about in quite some time. Thanks very much for including me in ***New Wave Wrestling.*** ***NWW***

KIDMAN
& LODI


Steve
Austin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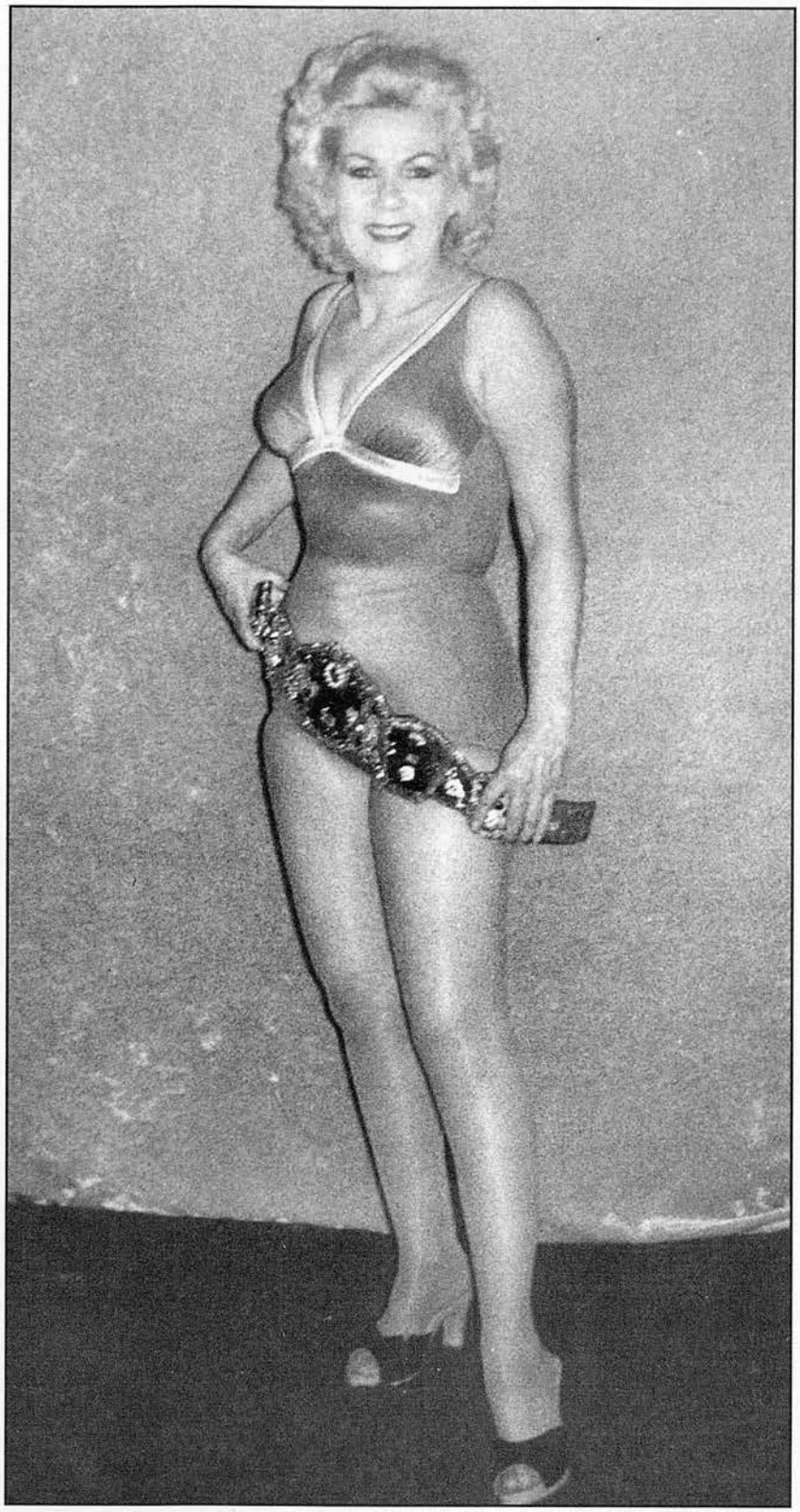


NW: WHY DID YOU DECIDE ON A WRESTLING CAREER, CORA?

CC: When I was young, Nick Gulas was promoting in Nashville, Tennessee, and I would go to the matches every week with my sister and her husband. I was hooked after seeing Dot Dotson and the great Mildred Burke wrestle one another. I wanted to be in front of the crowds and do what the wrestlers did. There was an awful lot of glamour associated with women's wrestling in those days.

NW: How did you get your first break?

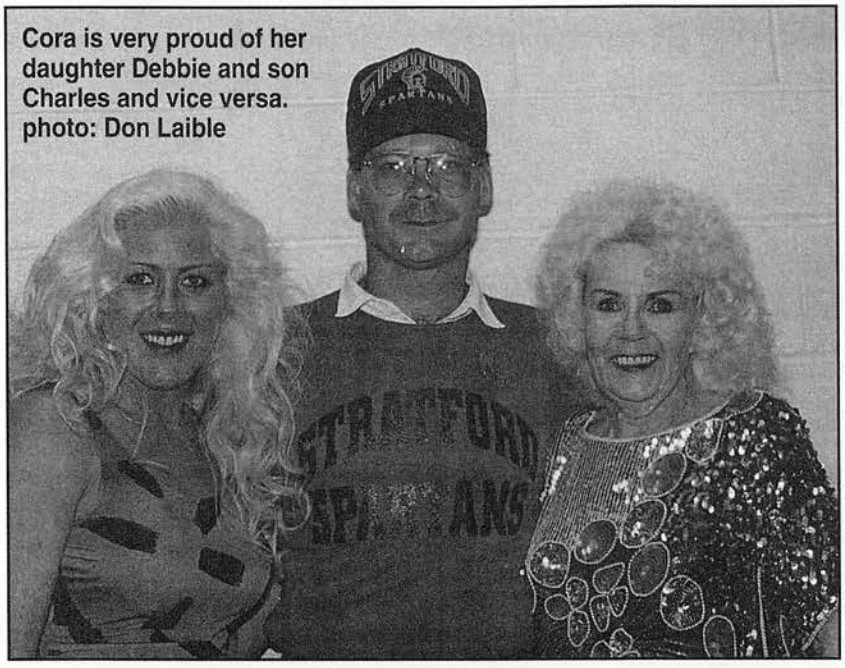
CC: One week at the matches I was sitting ringside and I got out of my chair and challenged Dot Dotson. Billy Wolfe, who at the time was handling all the bookings for women, offered me an opportunity to attend his training center in Columbus, Ohio.

NW: What kind of training schedule did you follow at Wolfe's center?

CC: We trained very hard. There was time in the ring to work on holds, time to lift weights, and time to run laps for what seemed like hours to increase our stamina.

When I was first on the road, Billy

interview by Don Laible



Cora is very proud of her daughter Debbie and son Charles and vice versa. photo: Don Laible

Wolfe made sure we all had nice hotel accommodations. Heck, sometimes we'd pull the mattress off the box springs and on to the floor to practice our holds. It was a fun time!

NW: Who trained you? How old were you when you had your first match?

CC: June Byers was responsible for most of my training, and she made sure I was ready before I got into the ring.

After a few months in the gym, I made my pro-wrestling debut in Jackson, Tennessee when I was 21 years old. My nose was broken that night, and I'd say that was one heck of a welcome into the world of wrestling! *[Laughs]*

NW: Besides June Byers, are there other women you credit for your success in wrestling?

CC: I credit Lilly Bitter, Mars Bennett, and Ella Waldek for helping me. They took an active part in making sure I was treated fairly by promoters and were always lending a compassionate ear whenever I had something on my mind. I've never forgotten their kindness.

NW: How long did you keep a full-time wrestling schedule?

CC: I wrestled about 40 years, except for six months when my husband Chester was in the Army. He was stationed in Europe, and my son Charles was born on a military base in Germany. Charles never went into wrestling. He's a paramedic in the Nashville area. When my daughter Debbie was born, I took her on the road with me when she was only six months old. My last pro match was in 1997. I took part in a battle royal.

NW: What was it like to be barnstorming from town to town?

CC: First, I'd like to say I was happy to be a wrestler then and proud to be known as one today. There wasn't much TV in the late 1940s and early 50s, so we relied on posters, handbills, and radio to get the word out to the fans.

My schedule consisted of driving to town, competing in my match, then driving to the next town for the next event.

Cora enjoyed demonstrating a bear hug on "Salvatore Sincere" Tom Brandi. photo: Jerry Wilson

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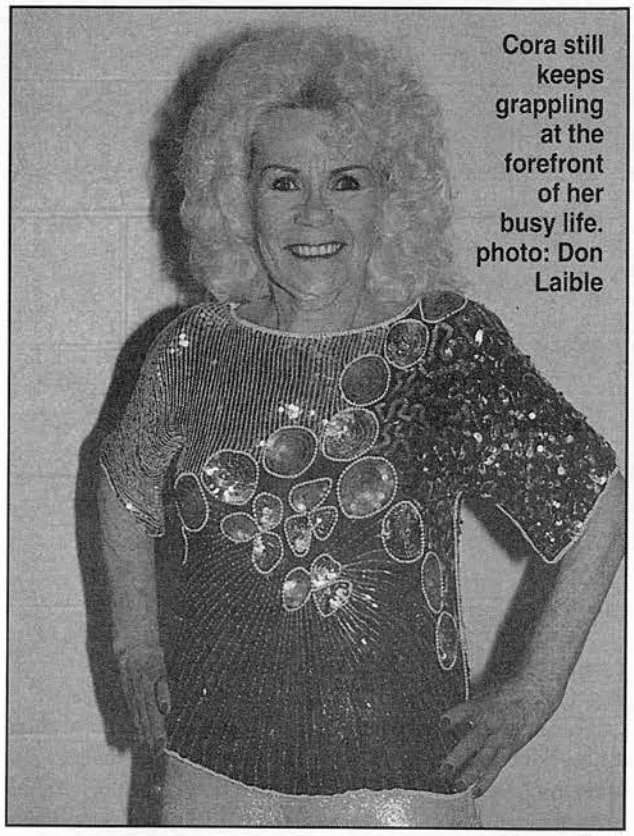

Cora still keeps grappling at the forefront of her busy life. photo: Don Laible

We'd usually appear for a week or two for each promotion. I'd say there were about 10 full-time women wrestling under Billy Wolfe's leadership at the time.

NW: Who were some of your favorite promoters?

CC: First, I'd have to say it was Nick Gulas. He also gave many top male wrestlers their start in Alabama and Tennessee.

I have a great deal of respect for Sam Muchnick. He promoted in St. Louis and was the NWA president for many years. Sam insisted that all the male wrestlers show respect to the women wrestlers. When we'd come into Sam's office, he made sure the guys stood up and offered us their seats.

Paul Boesch, who ran his promotion out of Houston, Texas, couldn't have been more professional, a real gentleman. When I wrestled for Paul, he always made sure there was a taxi waiting to take me back to my hotel after the matches.

NW: Who would you say was your toughest competition?

CC: In the 1960s, Rita Cortez was hard to get a handle on. We had some vicious brawls, especially in St. Louis. I still have the United States belt from that time. Rita came closest to stripping me of the title.

NW: Where have your wrestling travels taken you?

CC: I've seen the world, honey. Wrestling was my ticket to sightseeing. I've been to 12 foreign countries and traveled the United States from one coast to the other.

NW: What was your greatest thrill as a wrestler?

CC: I have to say that without a doubt my greatest thrill was teaming up with my daughter Debbie in a tag match in St. Louis. Nothing has topped the feeling of pride I felt when walking into the ring with her that night.

NW: Thank you, Cora, for sharing your mat memories with us.

CC: You're very welcome. God bless wrestling and all the great wrestling fans! ***NWW***

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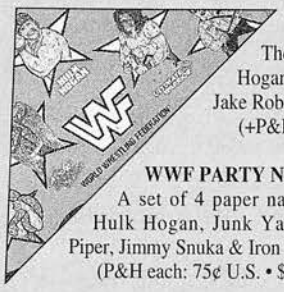

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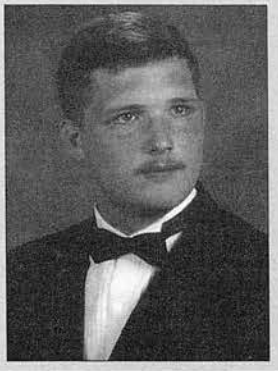

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Lanie Smith (13), 20 Mount St., Rochdale, Lancashire, England 042 6TE–Favorites: Shawn Michaels, Bret Hart, D-X, and the NWO.

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Jonathan Gray (17), 5 Marcon Terrace, Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire AB43 9RQ, Scotland–Favorites: Bret Hart, Hulk Hogan, Steve Austin, and Terry Funk.

Jen Frank (15), 2825 Carton Road, Holley, NY 14470. Wanted: Serious fans (15+) of WCW, Sting, Bill Goldberg, Juventud, DDP, and Benoit.

John J. Dolezal (15), 5217 South 21st St., Omaha, NE 68107–Wanted: Fans (13-15) of Hogan and the NWO.

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Ted Givler (16), 224 Brandywine Dr., Summerville, SC 29485–Wanted: Hardcore fans of Bret Hart and ECW.

Melanie Bowman (10), 1325

Cassandra Jo Norton (age 16) E-Mail: cnorton@silex.k12.mo.us or 70 Duncan Mansion Rd., Silex, MO 63377. Favorites: Raven, Lodi, Scotty Riggs, and Hammer.

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Bryan Judkins (15), 28A Lincoln St, Exeter, NH 03833. Favorites: The Undertaker, Goldberg, Ken Shamrock, Steve Austin, and Sting.

Angela Ratliff (21), 3828 E. Terrace, Indianapolis, IN 46203–Favorites: Stone Cold, DOA, Undertaker, Shamrock, Sting, Lex Luger, DDP, and Ric Flair.

David Thomson (?), 1 Kirkland Terrace, Inverurie, Aberdeenshire AB51 3TY, Scotland–Wanted: Fans (16-25) of Shawn Michaels, Shane Douglas, Chris Candido, D-X, and Steve Austin.

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Ryan Curtis (13), 113 Messimer Ln., Elizabethton, TN 37643–Favorites: Stone Cold, Goldberg, Sting, and Savage.

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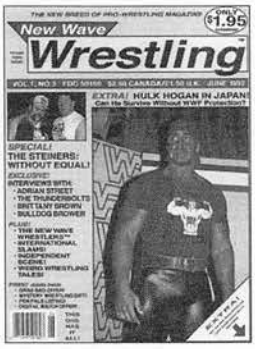

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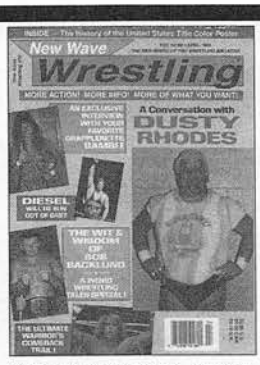

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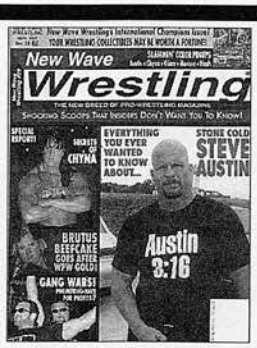

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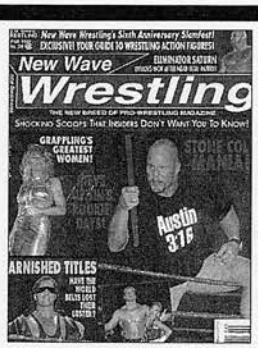

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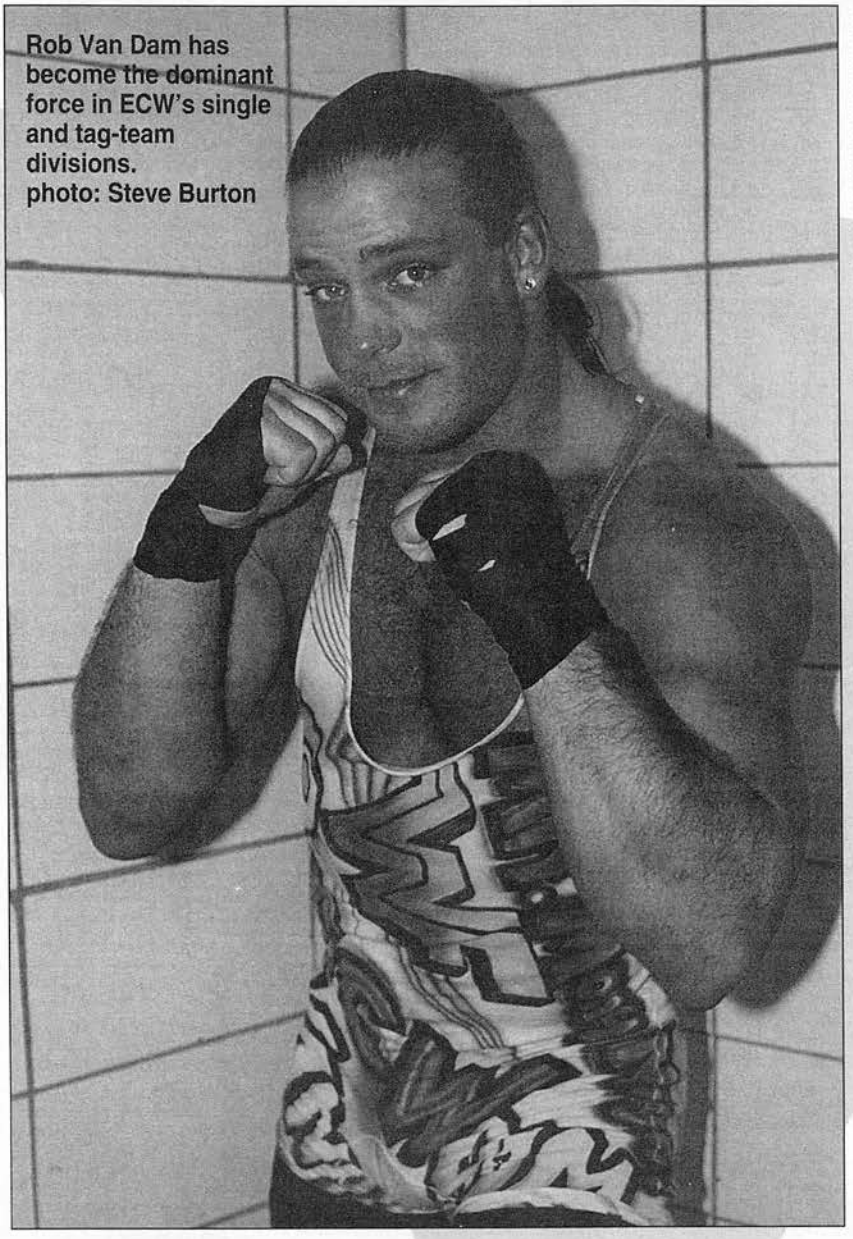


Rob Van Dam has become the dominant force in ECW's single and tag-team divisions.
photo: Steve Burton

AIWA: There have been no title changes since our last report. "Beautiful" Jack Stud is the AIWA heavyweight champ...The tag-team kingpins are Tech 9 and Crazed 1...Others on the circuit include: The Hood, Rhino, Crazy Dragon, Super Chicano, and managers "Luscious" Laura and Johnny Legend.

BWA: Belleview Wrestling Alliance, based in Belleview, Florida, has been providing wrestling events for local charity fund-raisers. "Mad" Matt, managed by legendary mini-grapplerette Diamond Lil, is the junior-heavyweight champion.

Two of the greatest female wrestlers of all time—The Fabulous Moolah and 75-year-old Mae Young—defeated Jezzabelle and Kate O'Connor on a special wrestling card held in honor of Founder's Day in Belleview.

ECW: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania's Extreme Championship Wrestling continues to recognize Shane Douglas (Troy Martin) as the ECW World heavyweight titleholder in spite of numerous injuries which have sidelined "The Franchise"...Taz (Peter Senerchia) has declared himself the World heavyweight champion and has been aggressively pursuing Douglas...As we go to press, Rob Van Dam (Robert Szakowski) is now in possession of the ECW World Television title as well as one half of the World tag-team titleholders with partner Sabu (Terry Brunk).

Chris Chetti recently completed a successful tour of Japan...There have been rumors that an exploding cage death match pitting Atsushi Onita and Masato Tanaka against The Sandman (James Fullerton) and either Sabu or Tommy Dreamer (Thomas Laughlin) will be presented on an upcoming ECW pay-per-view event.

Others on the circuit: Balls Mahoney (John Rickner), The Blue Meanie (Brian Heffron), Francine (Francine Fourmier), Bam Bam (Scott) Bigelow, Beulah (Theresa Hays), Justin Credible (P.J. Walker), Jason (Roland Knight), Nicole Bass, and Dudley Brothers—Bubba Ray (Mark LaMonica), "Big Dick" (Alex Rizzo), and D-Von (Devon Hughes).

EWA: The Jay, Maine-based league recognizes Tony Atlas (Tony White) as their World champion. His top challengers are the Iron Sheik (Khosrow Varizi) and Greg "The Hammer" Valentine (John Wisniski Jr.)...EWA light-heavyweight champion Kid USA and Latin American titleholder El Mascarado are feuding...Jamie West is the Intercontinental Women's champ. Lisa the Adjuster and Nasty Sherri are the top contenders.

Special Delivery Jones, King Kong Bundy, "Cowboy" Bob Orton Jr., Tito Santana, Rick Fuller, and Jimmy Snuka, have all worked recent shows.

GWA: Grande Wrestling Alliance of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania recognizes

George "The Animal" Steele (James Myers) as their World heavyweight champion. His top contenders are "Big" Bob Steele, Koko B. Ware, and King Kong Bundy...Alexi Taktarov holds the new GWA Intercontinental heavyweight belt...American heavyweight Flexx Wheeler is feuding with NABF/USBA Boxing champ Tony Martin..."Mack Daddy" Ron Starr is the television titleholder...The Krash Krew defeated Atlas Rivera & O-Dogg for the GWA tag straps...Mercury continues to hold the cruiserweight belt.

KCW: Currently working on the Kentuckiana Championship Wrestling circuit of Louisville, Kentucky: Reno Riggins, Mike Samples, Doug Gilbert, Vic the Bruiser, Mad Man Pondo, Flash Flanagan, Corporal Robinson, and the Centerfolds. We are not aware of any recognized champions as we go to press.

MSCW: Mid-Southern Championship Wrestling, based out of Fredericksburg, Virginia, recognizes no champions at press time. Currently competing under the MSCW banner are King Kong Bundy, "Nature Boy" Buddy Landell (William Ansor), Doink (not the original), Leatherface, and Shorty Smalls (Brian Noonan).

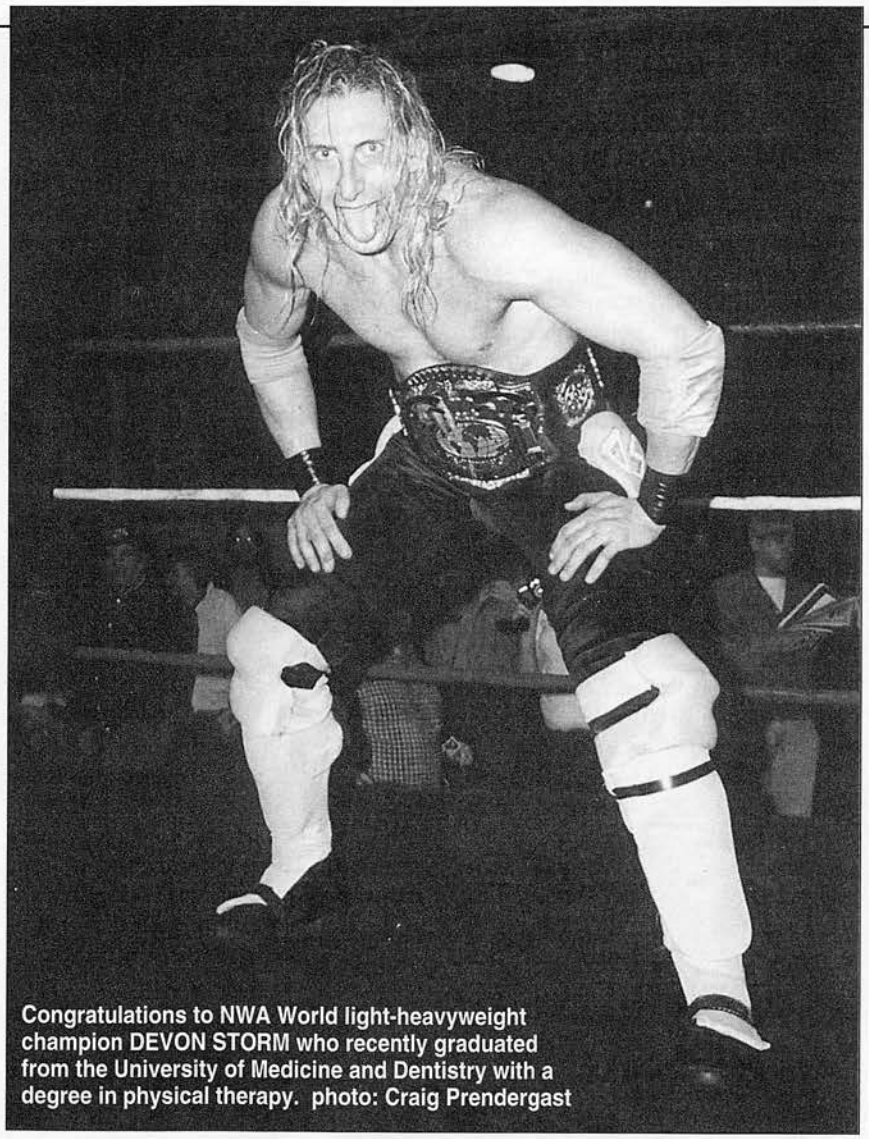
MCW: Nashville, Tennessee's Music City Wrestling is now working with the National Wrestling Alliance. The Colorado Kid (Mike Rapada) is the North American champion...Others on the circuit: King Mabel (Nelson Frazier), Limited Edition (Nick Dinsmore & Rob Conway), the Tennessee Volunteers (Steve Dunn & Reno Riggins), "Dirty" Dutch Mantell (Wayne Cowen), Billy Joe Travis, Jamie Dundee (Jamie Crookshanks), Brickhouse Brown, Chris Michaels, Frenchy Riviera, and Trailer Park Trash.

NBW: New Breed Wrestling, based in Jefferson, New York, recognizes John Diamond (managed by Missy Hyatt) as the United States heavyweight kingpin...H.C. Loc is the cruiserweight titleholder...Danger holds the NBW heavyweight crown.

Doink, Jimmy "Kloudy" Shoulders, Tito Santana, Brooklyn Brawler (Steve Lombardi), and the Headbangers (Mosh & Thrasher of WWF fame) have competed on recent shows.

NDW: The Greensboro, North Carolina league recognizes Buddy Landell as the New Dimension Wrestling heavyweight champion..."Beastmaster" Rick Link continues as the World Brass-Knuckles champ...Jack Spade holds the U.S. crown...Rising Sun are the tag-team champions...Others on the circuit include: The Fantastics (Bobby & Jackie Fulton), "Handsome" Jimmy Valiant, Ricky Morton, Madd Maxx, the Iron Sheik, "King Kong" Bundy, and "Pistol" Pez Whatley.

NWA (NJ): Dennis Coraluzzo's National Wrestling Alliance, based in New Jersey, has certainly been busy as



Congratulations to NWA World light-heavyweight champion DEVON STORM who recently graduated from the University of Medicine and Dentistry with a degree in physical therapy. photo: Craig Prendergast

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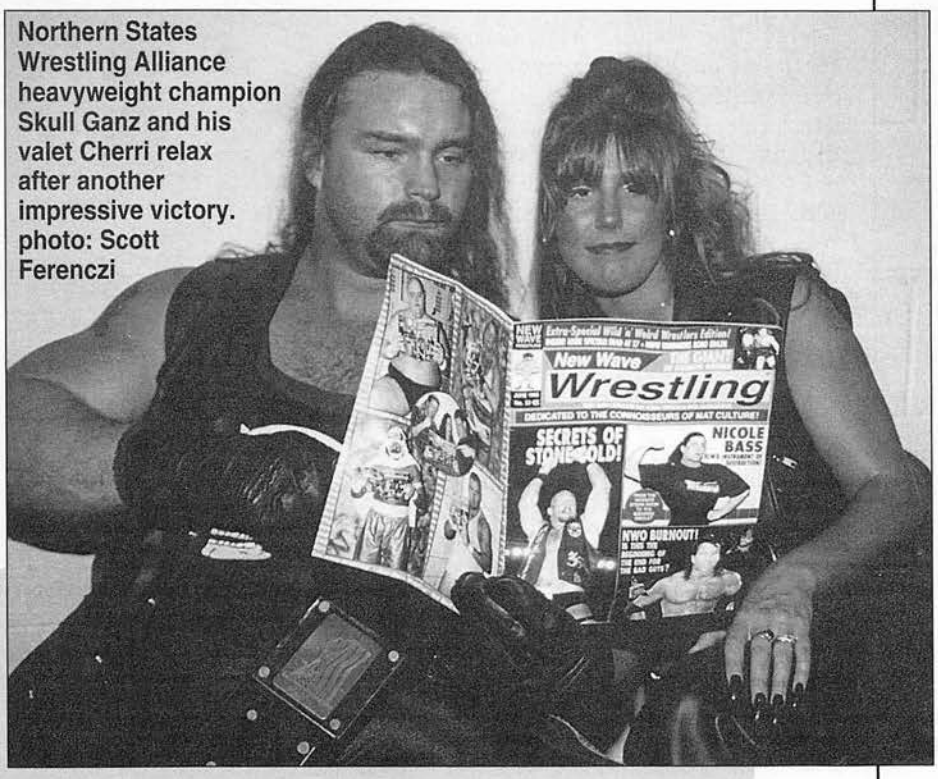
of late. The organization has experienced tremendous growth in recent months as the NWA banner has been accepted by numerous regional booking offices. As a result of the major changes in the group, we are not sure of Dan "The Beast" Severn's claim to the NWA World heavyweight championship as we go to press. Since he has accepted bookings with the WWF, it is impossible to determine the status of this important strap.

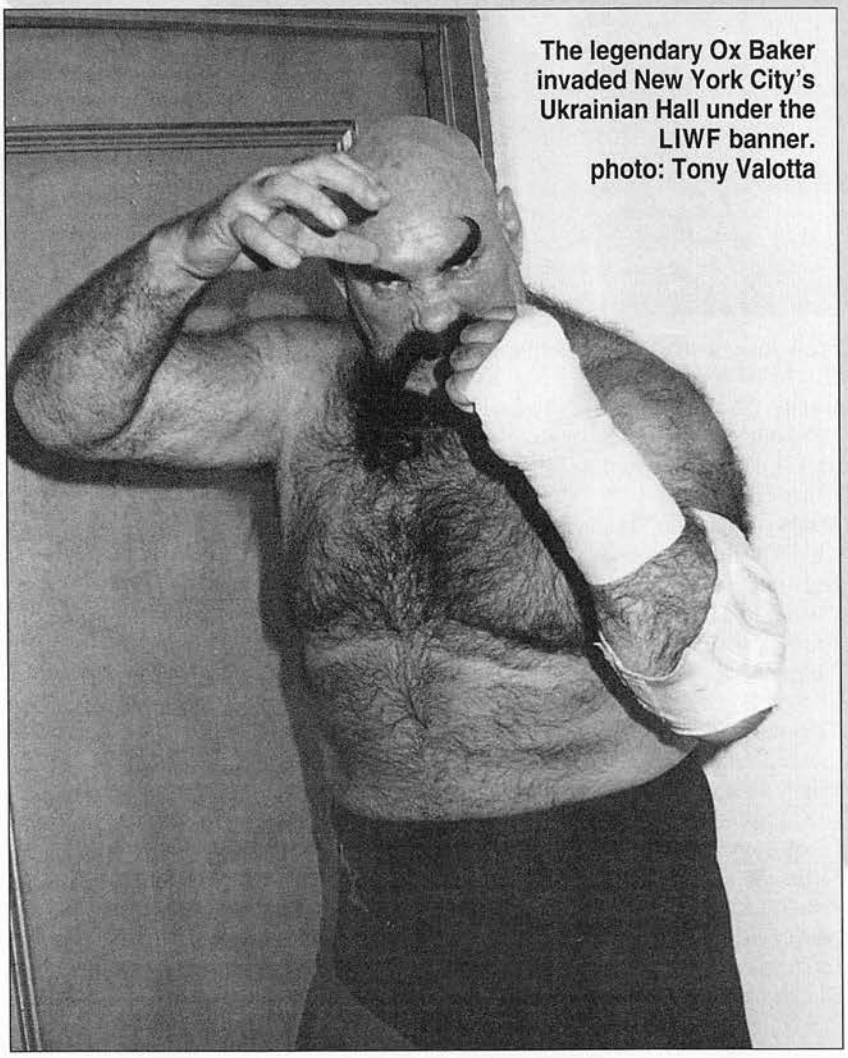
The Misfits are the United States tag champs...Doug Gilbert is the National heavyweight champ...Brittany Brown has been defending her New England Women's title against all contenders ...Devon Storm (Chris Ford) holds the NWA light-heavyweight strap.

Others who have recently seen action include: King Mabel, "Sycho" Sid (Sid Eudy), "King Kong" Bundy, Reckless Youth (Thomas Carter), Tom Brandi, the Metal Maniac, Dory Funk Jr., and Ahmed Johnson (Tony Norris).

NWA-Southwest (Texas): The NWA affiliate, based in Dallas, Texas, has showcased many top stars in recent months including: Mil Mascaras (Aaron Rodriquez), Manny Villalobos, Krusher Kong, and Action Jackson...Rod Price is the Southwest heavyweight champion.



Northern States Wrestling Alliance heavyweight champion Skull Ganz and his valet Cherri relax after another impressive victory. photo: Scott Ferenczi



The legendary Ox Baker invaded New York City's Ukrainian Hall under the LIWF banner. photo: Tony Valotta

PCW: Promoters Jeff & Ivan Kafory's Portland, Oregon-based Pacific Coast Wrestling recognizes Bruiser Brian (Brian Cox) as the PCW heavyweight champion...Two-time all-American University of Oregon football player Josh Wilcox, who made a major splash on the local pro-wrestling scene, but quickly left to play football in Europe, is expected back on the scene.

Doink the Clown (Matt Borne), Tito Santana, Greg Valentine, "Nasty Boy" Brian Knobbs, "Mean" Mike Miller, Bart Sawyer, Tony Kozina, and the Grappler have competed recently.

RCW: Regional Championship Wrestling is based in Reading, Pennsylvania. We are not aware of any recognized champions as we go to press. Wrestlers currently on the circuit include: "The Honky Tonk Man (Wayne Ferris), Ranger 7, and Dan Rose.

TOP: The Mineral Wells, Texas-based group recognizes B.A. Dalton as the Texas champion...Chad Hart is the United States titleholder...Kurt von Hess is the Brass Knuckles titleholder... Jimmy James, Mike Davis, and Cobra Kid have competed here recently. ***NWW***

FLASH FLANAGAN

RISING HIGH IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE!

NW: HOW DID YOU GET STARTED IN WRESTLING?
FF: I found a wrestling ring in an old abandoned building and I was going to steal it. *[Laughs]* Luckily, the owner was there to stop me. He thought that since I went to all this trouble, he'd teach me the basics himself, so he got me started in wrestling.
NW: Did you watch wrestling as a kid?
FF: Yes, I certainly did. I watched the World Wrestling Federation, World Championship Wrestling, World Class, and Dick the Bruiser's WWA group, which was based out of Indianapolis, Indiana.
NW: When did you have your first match?
FF: My first match was on June 6, 1992. My first opponent was Doomsday Machine/Glen Jacobs. He's wrestling today as Kane, and let me tell you, brother, he is BIG! *[Laughs]*
NW: Who trained you?
FF: I was trained by Sam DeCero at Windy City Wrestling.
NW: Do you enjoy wrestling on the independent scene?
FF: Well, yes. There aren't as many independent promotions around as there used to be, so I guess if you get into a good one, you have to be glad. What I really want to do at this time is to keep working consistently, so I'm always looking for bookings, especially against veteran wrestlers who I haven't already competed against. It's a great learning process, and most of the veterans are incredibly helpful to the young guys coming up.
NW: Is there anyone you look up to in wrestling?
FF: I like Jim Cornette. It's a funny thing to say, but he gave me my first real break in this business, and I won't ever forget him for it.

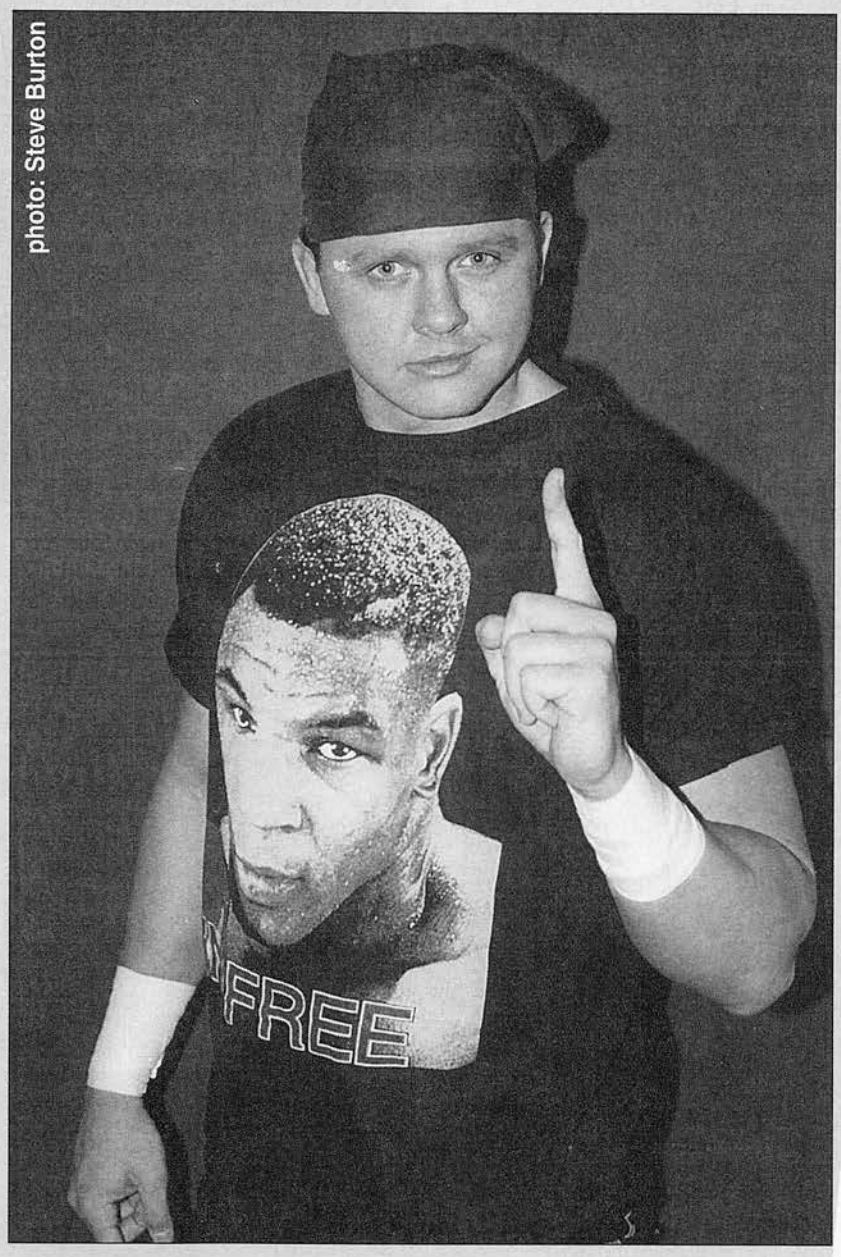


photo: Steve Burton

NW: Do you have any close friends in the wrestling business?
FF: No, I don't. I enjoy hanging around with wrestlers and exchanging stories, but the nature of the business, especially with all of the traveling on the independent circuits, really prevents any close friendships.

Besides, you never know who you're going to have to face in the ring next, so it's better to keep it all business.
NW: Have you held any belts?
FF: Yes, one of my very first

interview by Jerry Wilson

championships was the Circle City heavyweight title. I also held the Circle City tag-team belt.

Steve Dunn and I held the USWA tag-team titles in Memphis several times. We've been very successful as a unit.

NW: What do you think of ECW?

FF: Because of their hardcore content, I don't think ECW is suitable for young kids.

The ECW athletes are incredible, but it's a very rough style. It's not something young kids should be watching, so I hope parents keep this in mind.

NW: Have you wrestled outside the United States yet?

FF: Not yet, but I look forward to wrestling in Japan and Puerto Rico someday.

NW: Where are you from?

FF: I'm from Indianapolis, Indiana.

NW: Do you like wrestling as part of a tag team?

FF: Originally, I didn't wrestle as a tag team very often; I preferred singles wrestling because I won or lost

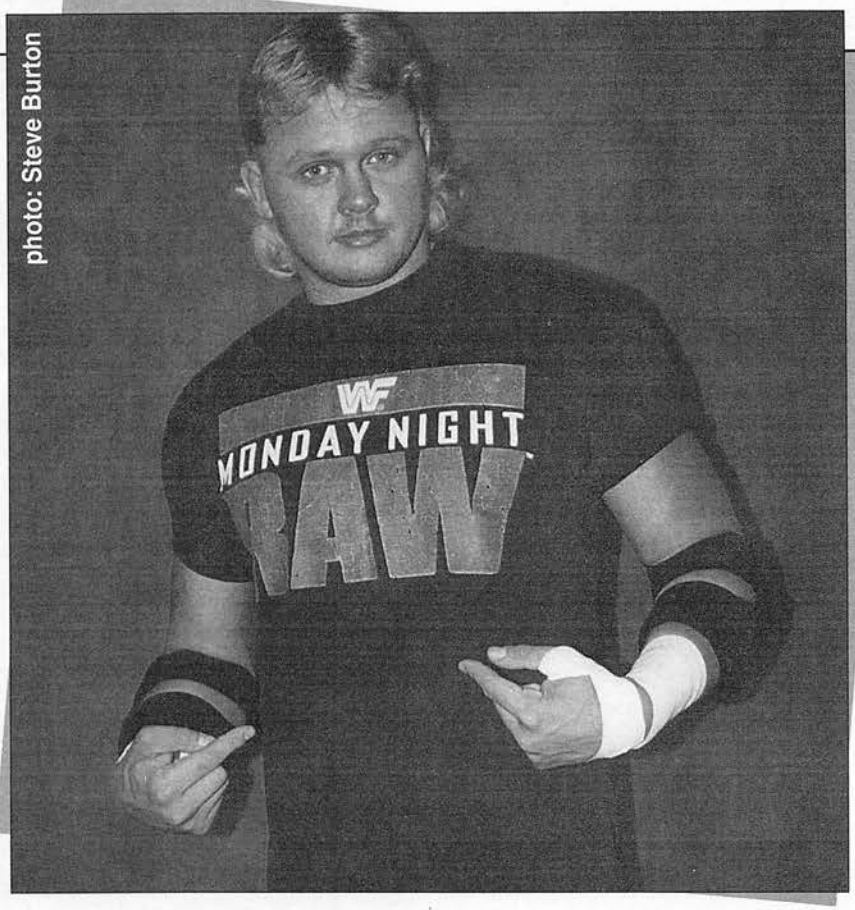


photo: Steve Burton

on my own merit. But since I've had a great deal of success in the tag-team division, I can't knock it.

NW: What do you like to do when you're not wrestling?

FF: I like to go to the gym and try to relax. I also like playing baseball.

NW: Which promotions have you worked for?

FF: Oh, man, I've worked for just about everybody—Windy City, Circle City, Smoky Mountain, the USWA, Wolverine Pro Wrestling, Ohio Valley Wrestling, Memphis Power Pro Wrestling, Music City Wrestling, the National Wrestling Alliance, the World Wrestling Federation, and so many others. I try to keep busy. *[Laughs]*

NW: Where would you like to wrestle in the future?

FF: I'd like to wrestle for the WWF, WCW, or Japan in the future, but the one place I wouldn't mind going back to work for is Windy City Wrestling. The reason I'd like to go back there is because the promoter told me I would never make it as a wrestler, so I'd like to stick it in his face that he was wrong. Never ever let anyone stop you from fulfilling your dreams!

NW: Are you married?

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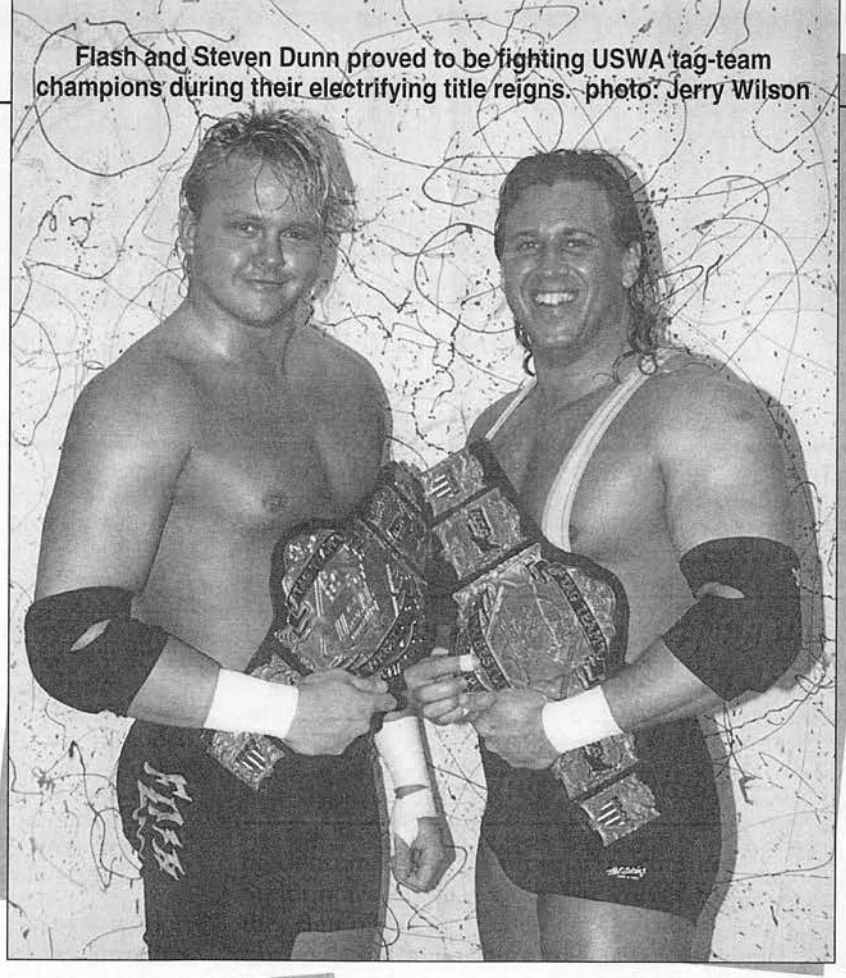
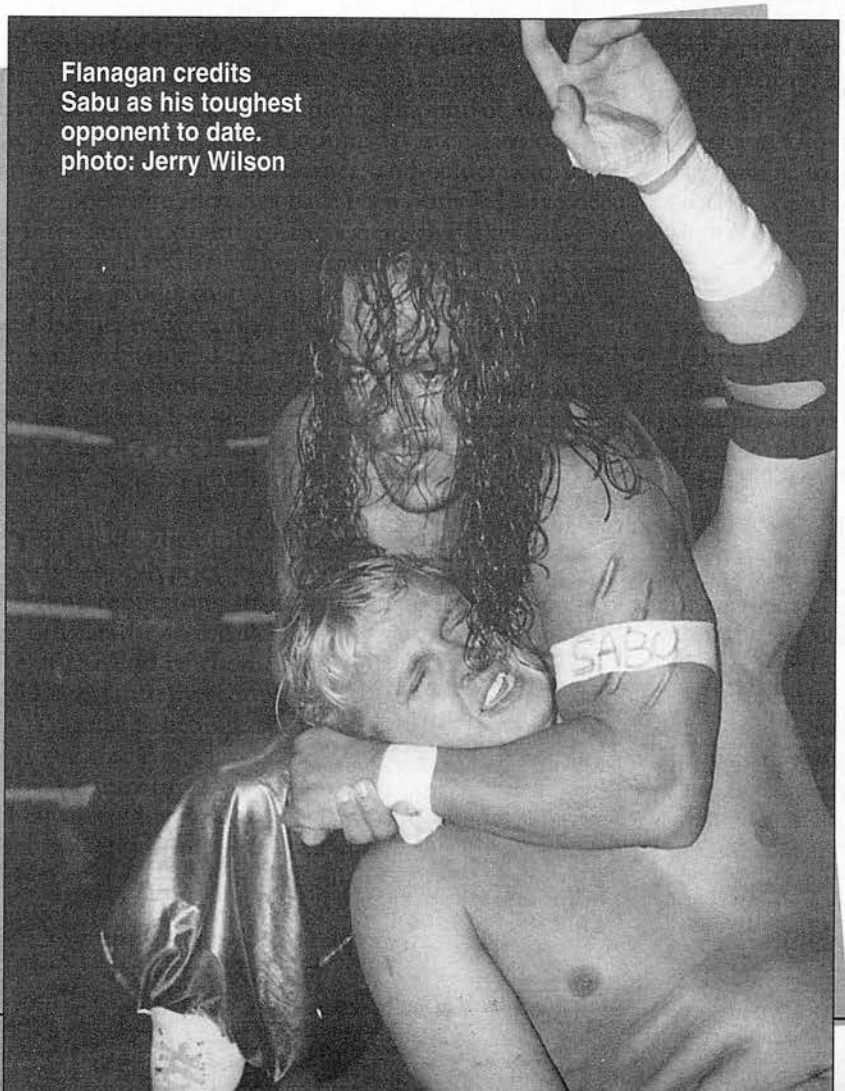


Flash and Steven Dunn proved to be fighting USWA tag-team champions during their electrifying title reigns. photo: Jerry Wilson

FF: No.
NW: Who has been your toughest opponent so far in your career?
FF: So far, my toughest opponent has been Sabu, but, believe me, there have been many other tough ones.
NW: Did you enjoy competing in the tournament to crown the first World Wrestling Federation light-heavyweight champion?
FF: I think I would have enjoyed it much more if I had won it. *[Laughs]*

But seriously, it was an honor to be asked and to compete alongside such athletes as Brian Christopher, Scott Taylor, Scott Putski, and, of course, Taka Michinoku. I'd love another chance to capture the gold, and I'm eager to get in the ring with Taka because—pound for pound—he's one of the best.
NW: What do you think is your strongest point as a wrestler?
FF: For some reason my opponents think I'm going to be a pushover in the ring, but once they start getting into the match with me, they soon find out I'm someone to be taken very, very seriously.
NW: Do you feel you made the right choices in your career?
FF: Yes, I do. Probably the best choice I ever made was leaving Windy City Wrestling and going on to bigger and better things.
NW: What has been your biggest moment in wrestling?
FF: I would say my biggest moment to date has been defeating Buddy Landell in a nontitle bout a few years ago when he was Smoky Mountain champion.

When I joined Smoky Mountain, I shocked everyone by upsetting Tommy Rich in my very first match. That was a great moment, too!
NW: In closing, do you have anything you'd like to say to your fans?
FF: Yes, I'd like to tell each and every wrestling fan that they are the ones who made me what I am in the ring today. Thank you for your support. Without you, I might as well hang up my boots! I assure you that I will not let any of you down.
NW: Thank you for taking the time to give this interview. Best of luck to you in and out of the ring!
FF: Thank you for asking me. Keep up the good work! ***NWW***



Flanagan credits Sabu as his toughest opponent to date. photo: Jerry Wilson

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All-Star Wrestling Vol. 4 Chavo Guerrero vs. Ben Alexander. Ricky Steamboat & Jay Youngblood vs. Bill Howard & Tom Lynch. Dick Slater vs. Keith Larsen. Roddy Piper & Wahoo McDaniel vs. Kelly Kiniski & Alexander. Kabuki vs. Keith Larsen. Greg Valentine vs. John Bonello.

All-Star Wrestling Vol. 5 Ric Flair & Orton Jr. vs. Bill Howard & Jerry Grey. Charlie Brown (Jimmy Valiant), Terry Gibbs & Brickhouse Brown vs. Kiniski, Grey & Lentz. Mark Lewin & Kevin Sullivan vs. Valentino & Bonello. Assassins vs. Larsen & McCord. Rufus R. Jones & Bugsy McGraw vs. Grey & Lentz. Baron von Raschke vs. Bonello.

All-Star Wrestling Vol. 7 Ric Flair & Wahoo McDaniel vs. Lentz & Grey. Assassins vs. Mark Fleming & Larsen. Rufus Jones & Charlie Brown (Jim Valiant) vs. Grey & Magic Dragon. The Youngbloods vs. Jerry Grey & Kelly Kiniski. WahooMcDaniel vs. B. Howard.

All-Star Wrestling Vol. 8 Steve Muslin & Bonello vs. Assassins. Rufus R. Jones & Mike Rotunda vs. Joel Deaton & Kelly Kiniski. Greg Valentine vs. Muslin. Dragon vs. Chavo Guerrero. Ben Alexander vs. Masked Charlie Brown (Jimmy Valiant).

All-Star Wrestling Vol. 11 Kamala vs. Butch Reed. Chavo Guerrero vs. Steve Keirn.

All-Star Wrestling Vol. 16 North American title: Butch Reed vs. "Dirty" Dick Slater.

All-Star Wrestling Vol. 17 Nightmare & Humongous vs. Jake Roberts & Jim Duggan.

Great AWA Title Matches Rick Martel vs. Jumbo Tsuruta. Nick Bockwinkel vs. Verne Gagne. Martel vs. Mike Hayes.

Combat Sports® Movie Classics Vol. 1 Gorgeous George in his feature-length film debut—*Alias the Champ* (1949).

Jim Garvin & Steve Regal Against the Road Warriors, Scott Hall (Razor Ramon) & Curt Hennig, plus more.

Greatest AWA Tag-Team Matches Curt Hennig & Greg Gagne vs. The Freebirds. Sgt. Slaughter & "Crusher" Blackwell vs. Legion of Doom. Mr. Saito & Nick Bockwinkel vs. Greg & Verne Gagne.

Greatest Sports Legends: Bruno Sammartino Highlights from the former WWWF champion's career including clips against Spiros Arion, Stan Hansen, "Killer" Kowalski, Ernie Ladd, Gorilla Monsoon, Buddy Rogers & the Sheik.

Hulk Hogan's AWA Battles Hulk vs. AWA champion Nick Bockwinkel. Andre & Hulk vs. Bobby Heenan, Bob Duncum, Bockwinkel & Ken Patera.

Mad Bull (1979) Alex Karras plays Iago Karkus, a pro wrestler troubled by his Greco-Roman mat past.

Madison Square Garden's Greatest Wrestling Antonino Rocca against Don Leo Jonathan, Lou Kim, Primo Carnera, and two title bouts with NWA champ Lou Thesz. Lord Leslie Carlton vs. Johnny Barrend. Verne Gagne vs. "Killer" Kowalski. Gene Stanlee vs. Kowalski.

Midget Madness A very lighthearted look at midget wrestling featuring: Sky Low Low, Fuzzy Cupid, Little Tokyo, Cowboy Lang, Little Mr. T & others.

Neutron vs. The Maniac (1960) Masked Mexican wrestling hero battles a killer (dubbed in English).

Neutron vs. The Death Robots (1961) Our hero must battle the ultimate killing machine (dubbed in English).

Neutron and The Black Mask (1962) Mexico's super-hero collides with crooks and a neutron bomb! (in English).

Neutron vs. Dr. Caronte (1962) Our hero clashes with a mad scientist and his monster army! (in English)

No Holds Barred (1952) The Bowery Boys tackle rasslin' gangsters in this flick featuring mat greats of the 1950s. Bonus—*Rasslin' Match*—an Amos & Andy cartoon!

Pro-Wrestling's Greatest Heroes Lou Thesz vs. Vic Christy. Antonino Rocca vs. Benito Gardini. Ed Carpentier vs. Mikel Scicluna. Ricky Starr vs. Karl von Hess. Bruno Sammartino vs. "Magnificent" Maurice. Verne Gagne vs. Larry Hennig. Gene Stanlee vs. Kola Kwariani. Bobo Brazil vs. Johnny Barrend. Sam Steamboat vs. Mike Sharpe Sr. Great Scott & Antonino Rocca vs. Karl & Eric von Hess.

Pro-Wrestling's Greatest Matches Bruno Sammartino vs. Fred Blassie. Buddy Rogers vs. Johnny Valentine. Ed Carpentier & Antonino Rocca vs. Skull Murphy & Pampero Firpo. The Kangaroos & Dr. Jerry Graham vs. Antonino Rocca, Miguel Perez, & Ricky Starr. Buddy Rogers vs. Bobo Brazil. Lord Blears vs. Baron Leone. Mr. Moto vs. Henry Hank. Joe Louis vs. Sky High Lee. Nick Bockwinkel vs. Matt Murphy. Gallaghers vs. "Magnificent" Maurice & Johnny Barrend. Primo Carnera vs. Jim Londos. Sheik vs. Jim Melby. Buddy Rogers vs. Pat O'Connor.

Pro-Wrestling's Greatest Villains The Grahams vs. Antonino Rocca & Miguel Perez. Buddy Rogers vs. Abe Jacobs. Fred Blassie vs. The Hangman. Killer Kowalski vs. Yukon Eric. Fritz von Erich vs. Bobby Brown. The Millers vs. Kangaroos. Crusher vs. Johnny Valentine. Gorgeous George vs. Larry Moquin. Bruiser & Hans Schmidt vs. Volkoffs. Jack Allen & Bavarian Rudy vs. Lou Albano & Tony Altemore.

Racket (Pindown) Girls 1950s feature film—mobsters take advantage of innocent girl grapplers.

The Road Warriors L.O.D. versus Larry & Curt Hennig and Baron von Raschke & Curt Hennig.

Santo vs. The Zombie Invasion (1961) A mad scientist and his monster army want to take over the world.

Santo vs. The Vampire Women (1961) Need we say more?

Santo in the Wax Museum (1963) A mad scientist is turning people into wax figures.

Sgt. Slaughter Vol. 1 Sarge battles Larry Zbyszko, Boris Zhukov, and battle-royal action.

Sgt. Slaughter Vol. 2 Battles with Zbyszko, Boris Zhukov, and more.

Secrets of Pro Wrestling Exposes how all of the great mat moves are done!

Super Argo (1966) Argo versus humanoids in this Italian entry into the wrestling super-hero genre!

Super Wrestling All Stars Vol. 1 Bob Orton Jr. vs. Killer Karl Kox. Juan Zapata vs. Mr. Olympia (Jerry Stubbs). Samoans vs. Junk Yard Dog & Mike George. No DQ: Dusty Rhodes & Dick Murdoch vs.

Samoans. Wrestler/midget lady mixed tag: Diamond Lil & Rick Ferrara vs. Barbie Doll & Tony Charles. Samoans vs. JYD & Brian Blair.

Super Wrestling All Stars Vol. 2 One Man Gang, the Samoans, Skandor Akbar attack Ernie Ladd. Iron Sheik vs. King Kobra. No. American title: Ted DiBiase vs. Orndorff. Samoans vs. Ferrara & Ash. Louisiana title: JYD vs. Bob Roop (w/Orton, Jr. & Orndorff).

Super Wrestling All Stars Vol. 3 Jimmy Garvin (with Precious) vs. Billy Brooks. Steve Regal & Jim Garvin attack Wahoo McDaniel. Louisiana title: JYD vs. the Grappler. Mississippi title: Orton, Jr. (with Orndorff & Samoans) vs. Mike George (with Dusty Rhodes & JYD). Dusty brawls with Orndorff & Orton. Ed Wiskowski & Orton vs. DiBiase & Mr. Olympia. JYD vs. Masked Terry Orndorff (Shane Douglas) with Paul Orndorff & "Bob Orton Jr.

Super Wrestling All Stars Vol. 4 Nick Bockwinkel vs. Manny Fernandez. David & Kerry von Erich vs. Gene Yates & Baron von Krupp.

Super Wrestling All Stars Vol. 5 Bruno Sammartino & Bruiser vs. Ernie Ladd & Baron von Raschke. Crusher, Bruiser, & Little Bruiser vs. Bobby Heenan & Blackjacks. Tully Blanchard vs. Manny Fernandez.

Super Wrestling All Stars Vol. 6 Andre vs. Sheik. Jay Strongbow vs. Don Kent (shark cage match). Pampero Firpo vs. Doney. Bruiser Brody & Scott Casey vs. Kiniski & Spoiler.

Super Wrestling All Stars Vol. 7 Terry "Hulk" Boulder (Hulk Hogan) vs. Andre the Giant (arm wrestling). Bob Ellis vs. Bobby Heenan.

Super Wrestling All Stars Vol. 8 Nick Bockwinkel vs. Magnum T.A. Ivan Putski vs. Eddie Mansfield. Tito Santana vs. Kelly Kiniski.

Super Wrestling All Stars Vol. 9 Chief Wahoo McDaniel vs. Tully Blanchard. The Sheik vs. Tom Jones. Bobo Brazil vs. Michael Angelo.

Super Wrestling All Stars Vol 10 The Sheik vs. Tiger Jeet Singh (mud match). Terry Boulder (Hulk Hogan) vs. the Outlaw. Tully Blanchard & Gino Hernandez vs. Scott Casey & Magnum T.A.

Super Wrestling All Stars Vol. 11 Terry Taylor vs. Sabu Samoa. Wahoo McDaniel, Marty Jannetty & Tom Rogers vs. Grapplers & Ted Oates.

Super Wrestling All Stars Vol. 12 Short clips & full bouts with Gorgeous George, Fritz von Erich, Whipper Watson, Yukon Eric, Rogers, Brazil & more.

Super Wrestling All Stars Vol. 13 Butch Reed vs. The Giant Kamala.

Super Wrestling All Stars Vol. 14 Jim Duggan vs. Ted DiBiase (street fight).

Super Wrestling All Stars Vol. 15 Ric Flair vs. Terry Taylor.

Super Wrestling All Stars Vol. 16 Ric Flair vs. Wahoo McDaniel.

Super Wrestling All Stars Vol. 17 Ted DiBiase & Steve Williams vs. Hector & Chavo Guerrero (cage).

Super Wrestling All Stars Vol. 18 Jim Cornette & the Midnight Express vs. Fantastics & Jim Duggan.

Tag Team TV pilot starring Roddy Piper & Jesse Ventura.

Thunder in Paradise Two-hour TV pilot with Hulk Hogan.

World's Greatest Wrestling Vol. 1 Hulk Hogan vs. Jerry Lawler. Nick Bockwinkel vs. Manny Fernandez. The Sheik vs. Mark Lewin.

World's Greatest Wrestling Vol. 2 Savage & Poffo vs. R&R Express. Blondes vs. PYTs. Savage vs. Lawler (cage).

World's Greatest Wrestling Vol. 3 Andre & Dusty Rhodes vs. the Samoans & Ernie Ladd. T. Charles vs. Paul Orndorff. Orton Jr. vs. Jim Garvin. The Iron Sheik vs. King Kobra. Juan Zapata vs. Mr. Olympia.

World's Greatest Wrestling Vol. 4 JYD vs. Bob Roop. Ted DiBiase vs. Paul Orndorff. DiBiase vs. Ed Wiskowski. JYD & Mike George vs. the Samoans. JYD & Brian Blair vs. the Samoans.

World's Greatest Wrestling Vol. 5 Randy Savage & Lanny Poffo vs. the R&R Express. Rick Rude, Jim Neidhart, Ox Baker & Assassin vs. Robert Reed, Tiger Mask, Keith Eric & Mad Dog. Road Warriors vs. Austin Idol & Lawler. Terry Boulder (Hulk) vs. the Outlaw.

World's Greatest Wrestling Vol. 7 Lawler vs. Kamala. Ray Stevens, Blackjack Mulligan & Baron von Raschke vs. Crusher, Bruiser & Sailor Art Thomas.

Wrestlers Away From The Ring Vol. 1 Two hours of wrestlers on talk shows.

Wrestling Funnies Vol. 1 Lighthearted look at the mat game featuring Jim Duggan, DiBiase, JYD, Orndorff & Missy Hyatt vs. Dark Journey.

Wrestling's Golden Era Vol. 1 Mark Lewin vs. Ox Baker. Crusher Verdue vs. Frankie Laine. Garth Vader vs. Stan Stasiak. Sheik vs. Stan Stasiak. Dr. Jerry Graham vs. Thunderbolt Patterson.

Wrestling's Golden Era Vol. 2 Mickey Doyle & Billy Red Lyons vs. Angelo & Lanny Poffo. Stasiak vs. Don Kent.

Wrestling's Golden Era Vol. 3 Features Rocca, Bruiser, Sheik & Ladies!

Wrestling Queen 1970s documentary on lady wrestler Vivian Vachon—features Andre the Giant, the Blackjacks, Vachons & more!

Wrestling Spectacular Vol. 1 Andre vs. Spoiler. Bruiser Brody vs. Twin Devils. Mark Lewin vs. Dusty Rhodes. Killer Brooks & Ivan the Terrible vs. Tiger Conway Jr. & Tiny Tom. Victor the Wrestling Bear vs. Gary Hart (cage).

Wrestling Spectacular Vol. 2 Ken Patera vs. Jose Lothario. Leroy Brown vs. Tim Brooks. Wenona Little Heart vs. Judy Martin. Dusty Rhodes vs. Ivan Koloff (Coffin Match).

Wrestling Spectacular Vol. 3 Dusty, Slater & Steamboat vs. Black Bart, Ron Bass & Tully Blanchard. Ragin' Bull & Buzz Tyler vs. Bart & Dory Funk Jr. Barry Windham & Mike Rotunda vs. Kelly & Royal. Valentine vs. Muslin. Ivan Koloff & Don Kernodle vs. The Youngbloods.

Wrestling Spectacular Vol. 4 Mad Dog & Pork Chop vs. Bushwhackers. Duggan vs. Buzz Sawyer (Dog Collar). Jake Roberts vs. Humongous (cage). Jake Roberts vs. Dick Slater w/ Dark Journey, plus Bunkhouse royal!

Wrestling Women & The Doctor of Doom (1961) Gal Grapplerettes vs. a demented doc and his monster!

Wrestling Women vs. The Aztec Mummy (1963) Fearless grapplerettes battle a mad mummy.

Larry Zbyszko "Spudhead" battles Sgt. Slaughter, Greg Gagne & Larry Winters.

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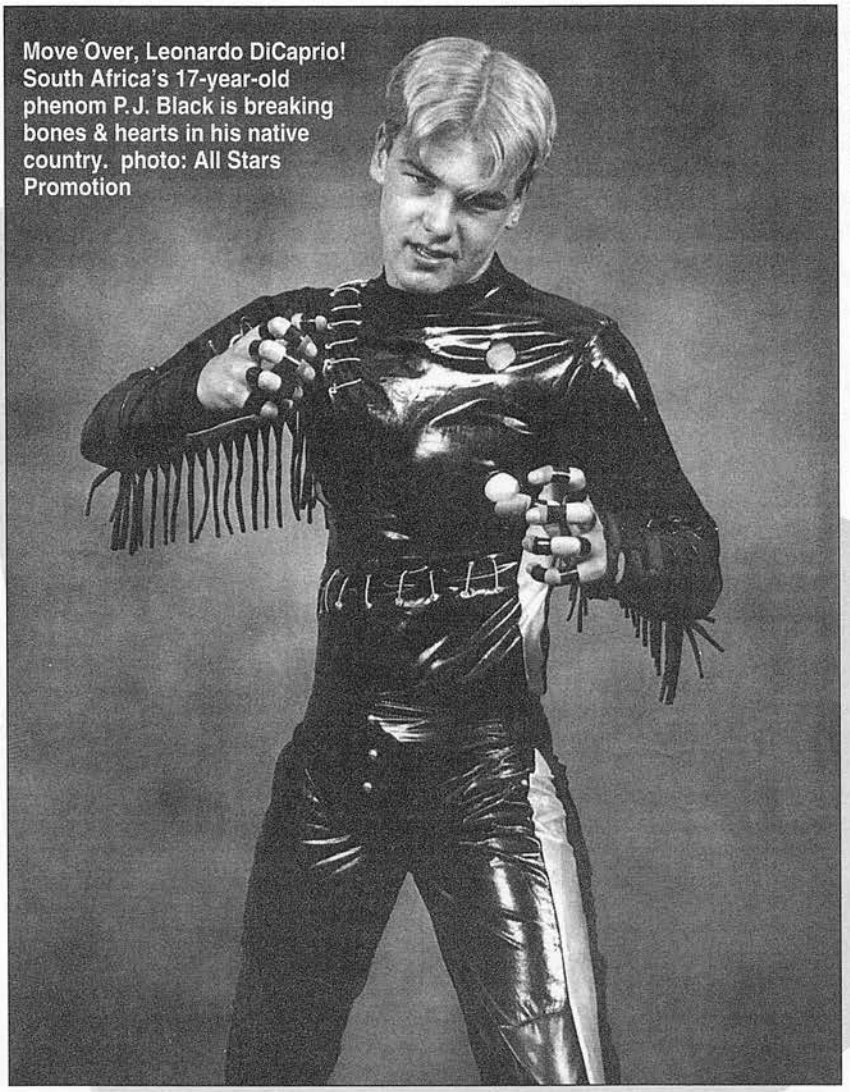
INTERNATIONAL SLAMS



Move Over, Leonardo DiCaprio! South Africa's 17-year-old phenom P.J. Black is breaking bones & hearts in his native country. photo: All Stars Promotion

AFRICA

IWCN: The World Katanka continues as the International Wrestling Club of Nigeria heavyweight champion. World Class Club heavyweight champion Tony Destroyer has invaded the circuit and has challenged Katanka to a unification match...Women's champion Tina Terror is feuding with Tessy Dee...IWCN superheavyweight champ "The Nigerian Police Force" O.C. Muzeze is trying to hold back "Action Man" Tiger Fist's relentless assault..."Monkey Man" Prime Tornado is the IWCN light-heavyweight titleholder...Terror Kid is the IWCN middleweight kingpin...The Marvelous Iron Brothers hold the National and African tag-team championship belts.

IWF/UWF: The big news is that two members of Canada's legendary Hart Family may possibly tour here (Bruce and Keith?)...Tatanka (Chris Chavis) of WWF fame is the IWF World heavyweight champion...South Africa's legendary Danie Brits has officially retired...The Pink Panther is the All-African heavyweight titleholder...CWA South African superheavyweight champion Danie Voges continues to feud with the Giant Warrior of Canada...The Wrecking Crew—Fury (Marc Laurinatis) and Rage (Al Greene)—are still recognized as the World tag-team champions.

The world's youngest professional wrestler, P.J. Black, a 17-year-old high school student, recently unmasked after spending the last few months under a hood. "Wrestlers don't normally turn professional here in South Africa until they are 19, so I wanted to keep my identity a secret from my school friends for as long as I could," said the talented newcomer.

NWF: There have been no title changes reported since our last issue. Tony Destroyer is the World heavyweight champion...Ariba Swan is the Nigerian Wrestling Federation middleweight champion...The Body Gloves (Virgo Lee & Indomitable Fearless) are the NWF tag-team titleholders...Anna "Ring" Marshall holds the Women's title.

WWWA: The World Wide Wrestling Association, based in Entebbe, Uganda, recognizes King Kong Bundy (Chris Pallies) as the World heavyweight champ..."Musoke" Tony Atlas (Tony White) is the African Continental heavyweight titleholder...The Women's champion is Sweet Destiny...Koko B. Ware holds the television belt...Abdullah the Butcher (Lawrence Shreeve) has the Brass Knuckles trophy.

AUSTRALIA

APW: Australasian Pro Wrestling, based in Melbourne, recognizes George Gulio as the Victorian heavyweight champion...The Blade Runner is the Victorian lightweight titleholder...The tag belts are held by Bully and Kid Thunder... Grapplerette Sweet Chastity has been battling Sherrie Sinatra.

AWA: The Australian Wrestling Association, based in Sydney, recognizes Greg Smitt as their heavyweight champion...Jumping Josh defeated Chucky to capture the Roy Heffernan Memorial title...The Gangsta is the junior-heavyweight titleholder.

For information on their mat wares,

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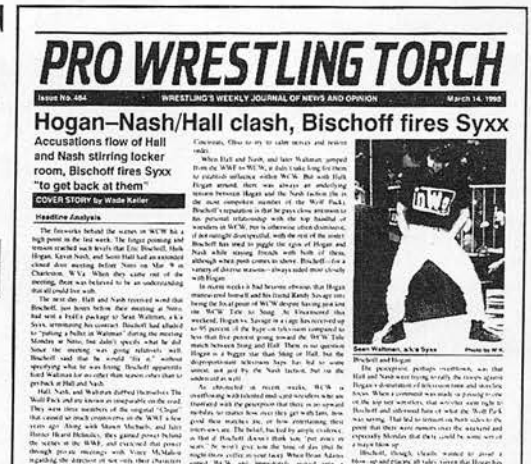


PRO WRESTLING TORCH

Issue No. 484 — WRESTLING'S WEEKLY JOURNAL OF NEWS AND OPINION — March 14, 1998

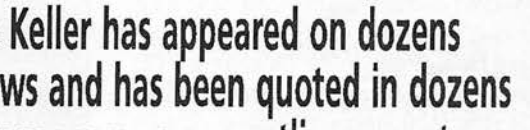
Hogan–Nash/Hall clash, Bischoff fires Syxx

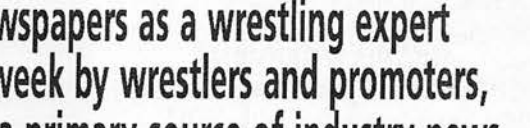
Accusations flow of Hall and Nash stirring locker room, Bischoff fires Syxx "to get back at them"

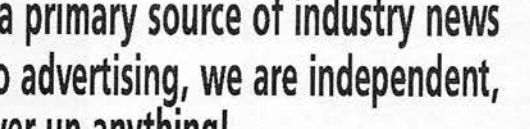
COVER STORY by Wade Keller

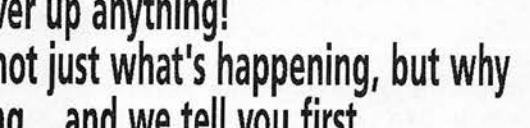
Headline Analysis

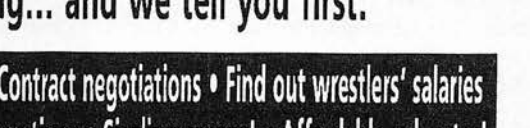
Sean Waltman, a/k/a Syxx — Photo by W.K.

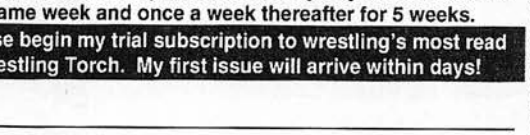


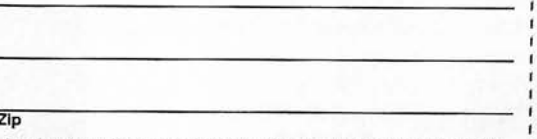


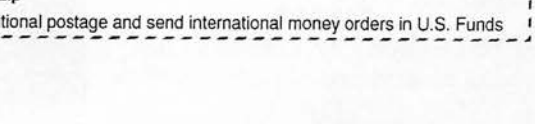












PRO WRESTLING TORCH

Issue No. 490 — WRESTLING'S WEEKLY JOURNAL OF NEWS AND OPINION — April 18, 1998

Streak is over: Raw beats Nitro 4.6 to 4.3

Raw teases McMahon vs. Austin match; Nitro features Nash vs. Sting rematch, but no Hogan

COVER STORY by Wade Keller

Headline Analysis

Ric Flair on shaky ground with WCW

By Wade Keller, Editor

- Editor Wade Keller has appeared on dozens of radio shows and has been quoted in dozens of major newspapers as a wrestling expert
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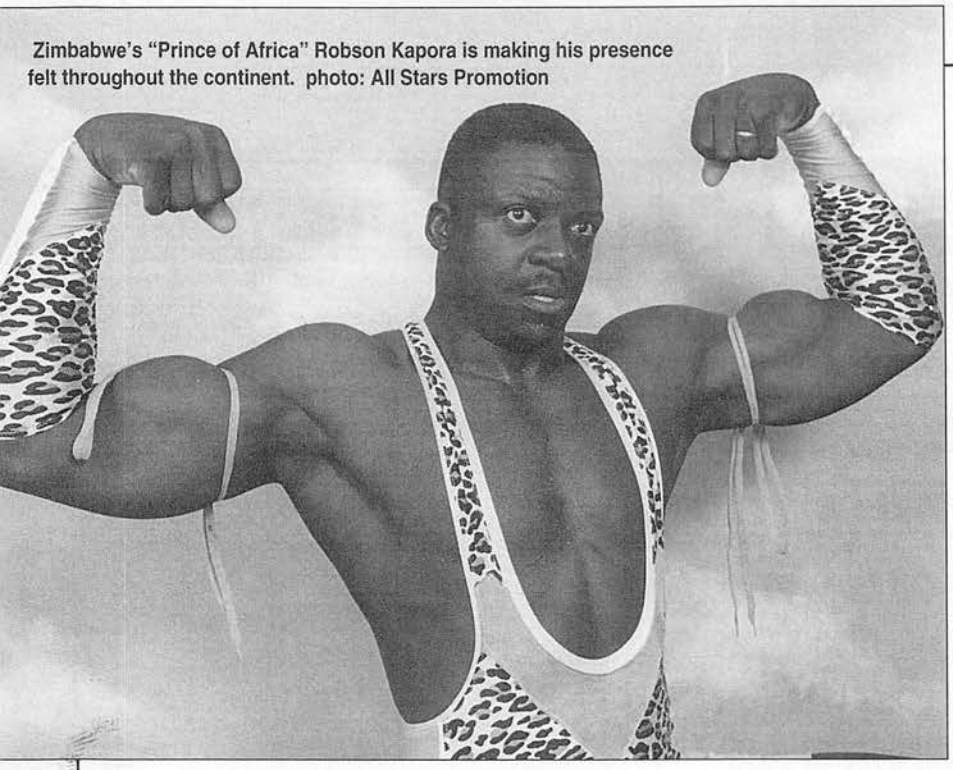


Zimbabwe's "Prince of Africa" Robson Kapora is making his presence felt throughout the continent. photo: All Stars Promotion

write to: Su-Plex Sports, P.O. Box 97, Altona North, 3025, Australia.

WCW: World Championship Wrestling, based in Atlanta, Georgia, will be sending Hulk Hogan to Australia for a series of personal appearances. The American league is planning a show in Sydney sometime this fall.

AUSTRIA & GERMANY

CWA: Duke Marshall (Michael Droese, who formerly wrestled in the WWF as Duke "The Dumpster" Droese) is the Catch Wrestling Association World heavyweight champion. He recently competed in the United States for the WWF, so it's possible that he may be dropping the strap in the very near future...Doug Gilbert recently toured with the IWA (Japan) heavyweight title belt...Ulf Hermann and Tony St. Clair are the CWA tag champions...Franz Schumann is the middleweight champ ...Commonwealth champ Tony St. Clair has been holding back his challenger Billy Joe Eaton...Michael Kovac is the junior-heavyweight titleholder. He has been feuding with Mid-American junior-heavyweight champ Colonel Blatnis.

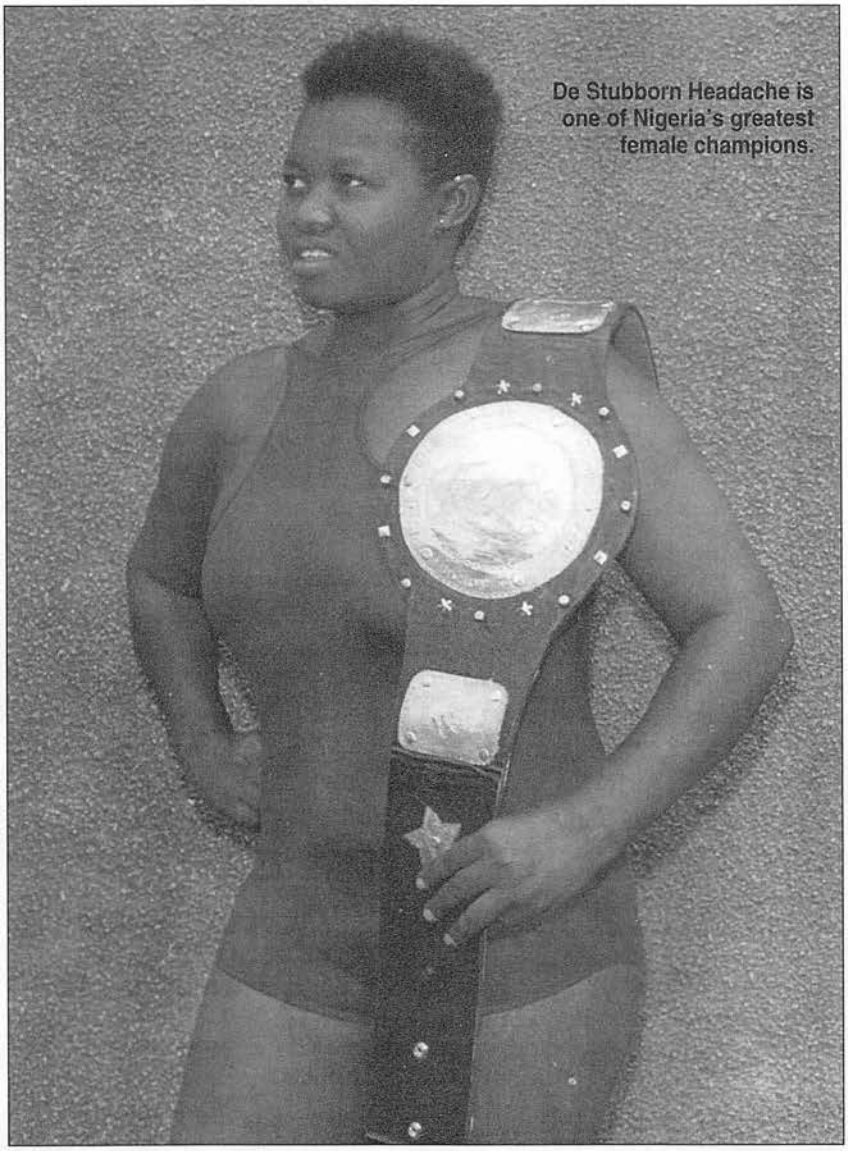
Others who have seen recent action include: Ian Rotten, Cannonball Grizzly, Robbie Brookside, and The Dirtbike Kid...Ulf Hermann and Franz Schumann recently toured the United States and worked for several top regional offices including ECW and the NWA.

CANADA

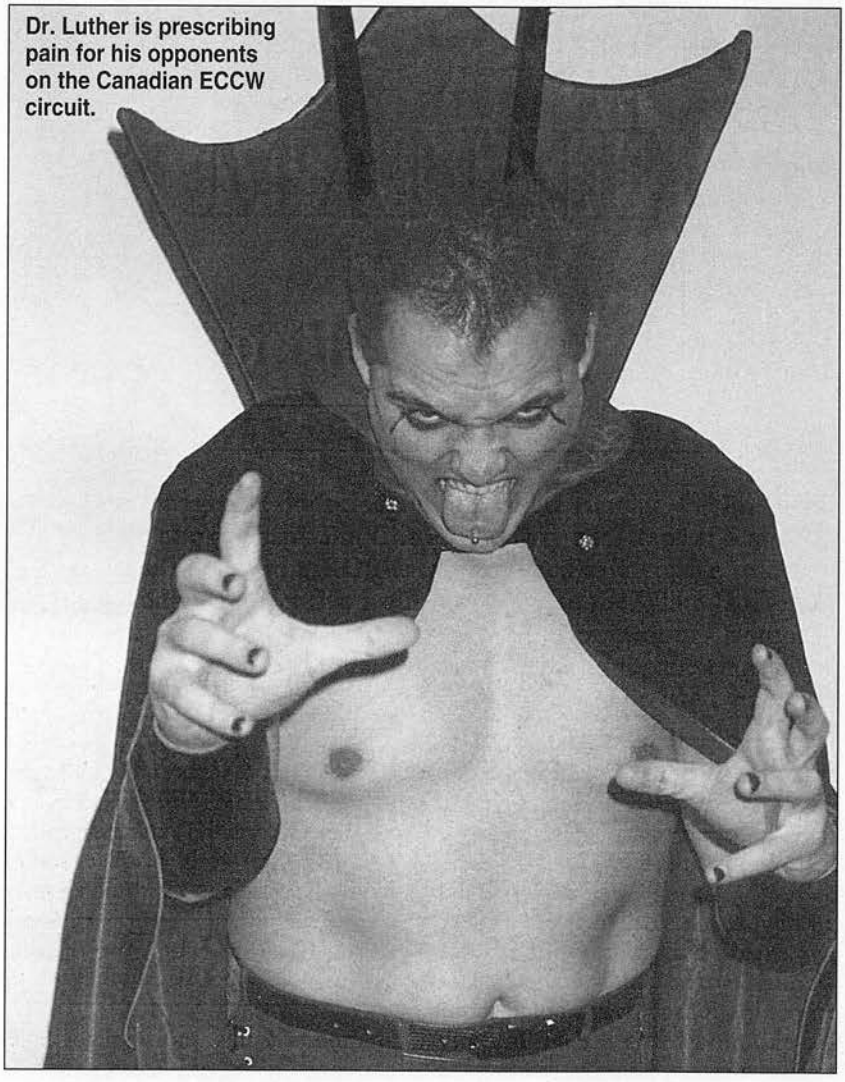
CWF: Canadian Wrestling Federation, based in Winnipeg, Manitoba, is now affiliated with the National Wrestling Alliance. From what we understand, there is a tentative plan to recognize the league as "NWA Canada." More on this in the next issue.

The league recognizes Crusher Carlson as the Canadian champ...EZ Ryder and Darren Dalton defeated Damage Inc.'s 275-pound Skar and 295-pound Sledge for the CWF tag-team championship ..."Caveman" Broda is the CWF light-heavyweight champ...Hysteria upset Vance Nevada for the NWA Canadian light-heavyweight title.

ECCW: British Columbia's Extremely Canadian Championship Wrestling is now recognized as "NWA Pacific Northwest." Doby Gillis is their heavyweight champion...Destruction is the NWA Vancouver Island champ...Army of Darkness's Dr. Luther and Incubus are the tag-team titleholders...Plans are



De Stubborn Headache is one of Nigeria's greatest female champions.



Dr. Luther is prescribing pain for his opponents on the Canadian ECCW circuit.

underway to bring in Dan Severn to defend the NWA World heavyweight crown.

ICW: International Championship Wrestling is based in Vancouver, British Columbia. "Streetfighter" Tim Flowers is the International heavyweight titleholder...The tag-team belts are vacant as we go to press...Velvet McIntyre is the WWWA Women's champion.

GREAT BRITAIN

All Star: Putting competition aside, All-Star promoter Brian Dixon has been working with rival mat impresarios Eli Collins (MEGA) and Lewis Blain (PWA) to promote several fund-raising events for Giant Haystacks (Martin Ruane), who is seriously ill and valiantly battling cancer.

Marty Jones is the World middleheavyweight champion...Brian Maxine continues as the Gold Belt middleweight champion... Jimmy Ocean is the lightweight titleholder.

CCW: As we go to press, Commonwealth Championship Wrestling of Worcestershire is in the process of promoting their first event which will be taking place in Cheltenham. Obviously, no champions are recognized yet, but here's a brief listing of talent: "Hustler" Stuart Ace (trained by "Exotic" Adrian Street), "Dragonzen" Les Allen (trained by Ken Shamrock), Gareth Humphries & The Shadowarrior.

EWA: The Dirt Bike Kid (Jason Harrison) holds both the British Commonwealth junior-heavyweight title as well as the European heavyweight belt...ECW stars Sabu and Rob Van Dam are the Hardcore tag-team champs.

Hammerlock: Jake "The Snake" Roberts recently toured.

MEGA: Promoter "Mad" Eli Collins recognizes "The Living Legend" Lewis Blain as the MEGA champion...Others on the circuit include: Clive Cannell, Davey Jones, Leroy Brown, Robby the

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VOL. 5: Seek, Stalk, and Destroy • The Corpse of the Year (Parts 1 & 2) • The Ace in the Hole.

VOL. 6: Bad Bet on a 457 Silent • Trouble for Prince Charming • Alias the Scarf • Hornet Save Thyself.

VOL. 7: The Invasion from Outer Space (Parts 1 & 2) • Piece of the Action • Batman's Satisfaction.

The Green Hornet Movie: 1975 theatrical release compiling several of the 1967 TV episodes into one 90-minute motion picture.

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Stud, Steve Storm & The Mummy.

PWA: The Pro Wrestling Alliance Commonwealth champion is Lewis Blain...Grapplerette She-Devil is taking on male and female opponents.

JAMAICA

WWC: World Class Wrestling tours Montego Bay, Negril, and Kingston. King Kong Bundy is the World heavyweight titleholder. Peggy Lee Leather is the WWC Women's champion.

Bambi, Tatanka, S.D. Jones, Earthquake (John Tenta), Tugboat (Fred Ottman), and Tony Atlas recently toured.

JAPAN

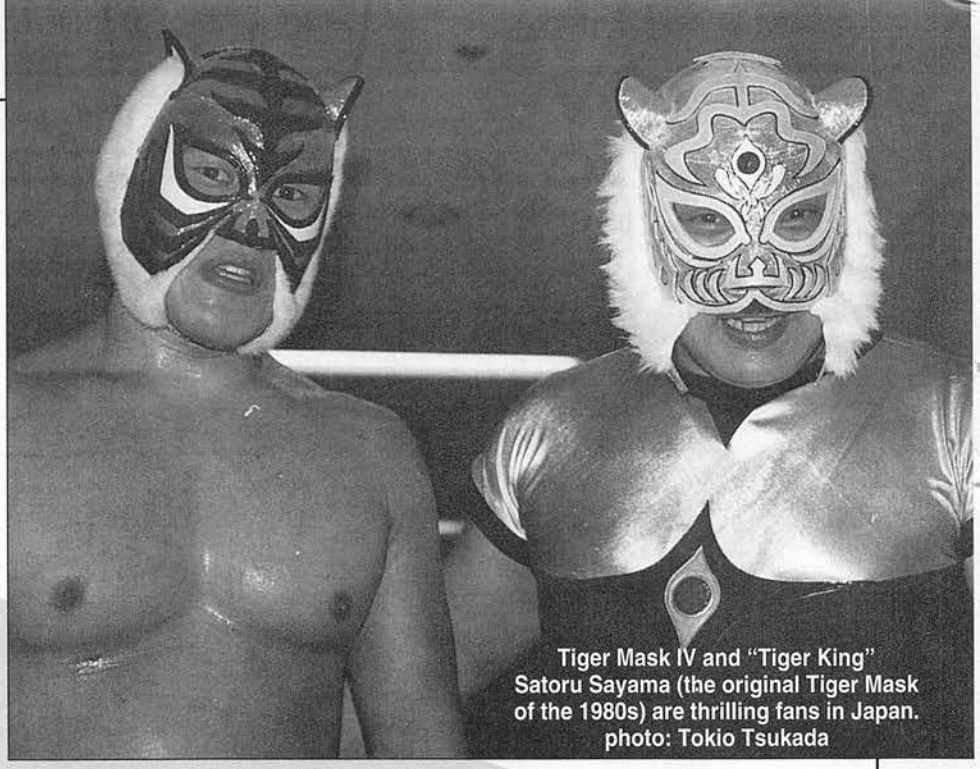
All-Japan: Kenta Kobashi, the Triple Crown champion, is feuding with Toshiaki Kawada...Wolf Hawkfield & Johnny Smith hold the All-Asian tag-team titles...Maunakea Mossman is the All-Japan junior-heavyweight champ.

Takako Inoue is the Women's Pacific champion...Momoe Nakanishi is the All-Japan Women's junior champion.

Others who have appeared on this circuit: Stan Hansen, Vader (Leon White), "Vampire Warrior" David Heath, Giant Kimala II, Rusher Kimura, "Cowboy" Bobby Duncum Jr. & Gary Albright.

M-Pro: El Gran Hamada is the WWA light-heavyweight champion.

New Japan: IWGP tag-team belts were stripped from Masahiro Chono & Keiji Muto, who was unable to defend his half of the titles because of serious knee problems. Hiroyoshi Tenzan & Masahiro Chono captured the crowns by winning a tag-team elimination tournament.



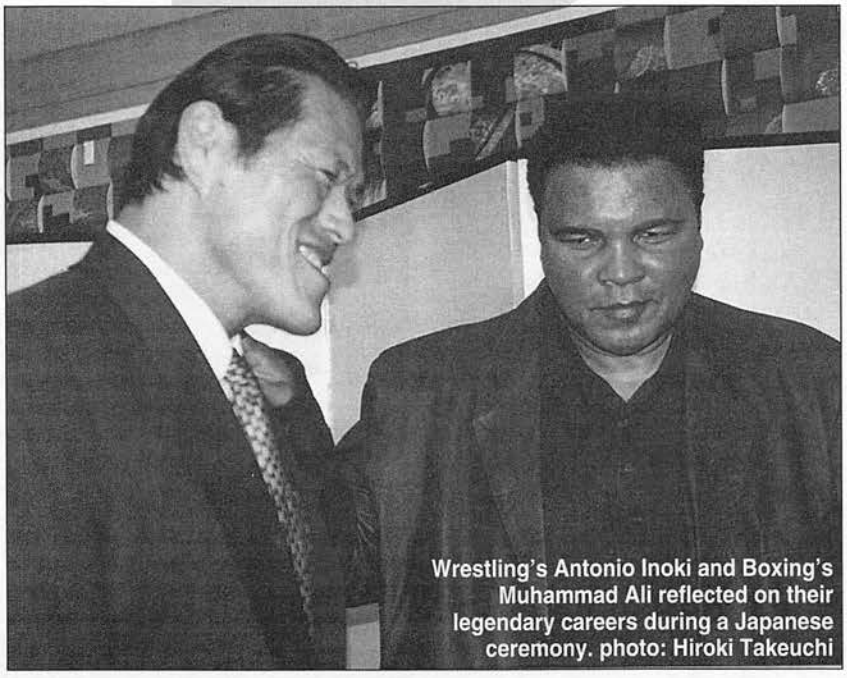
Tiger Mask IV and "Tiger King" Satoru Sayama (the original Tiger Mask of the 1980s) are thrilling fans in Japan. photo: Tokio Tsukada

Jushin Lyger is the IWGP junior-heavyweight champion...Tatsumi Fujinami and Shinya Hashimoto are feuding over the IWGP heavyweight crown.

Competing on recent shows were Dr. Wagner Jr., Big Titan (Mike Bogner), Michael Wallstreet (Mike "I.R.S." Rotundo), Don Frye, El Samurai, and Koji Kanemoto.

LEBANON

IWP: An all-grapplerette tour of Beirut and Tripoli recently took place featuring Desiree Petersen, Rhonda "Monster Ripper" Singh (WWF's Bertha Faye), La Briosa, and Xochitl Hamada.



Wrestling's Antonio Inoki and Boxing's Muhammad Ali reflected on their legendary careers during a Japanese ceremony. photo: Hiroki Takeuchi

MEXICO

AAA: Fuerza Guerrera & AAA Mosco are the Mexican tag titleholders...Perro Aguayo Sr. is the Mexican heavyweight kingpin...Konnan has the IWAS heavyweight belt...La Parka (Adolfo Tapio) is the IWAS junior-heavyweight kingpin.

EMLL: CMLL welterweight champion Felino has been successfully turning back his challenger former kingpin Karloff Lagarde Junior...Atlantis holds the CMLL middleweight crown.

PANAMA

SLP: We are not aware of any champions under the Super Lucha Promotions banner. Wrestlers currently working on this circuit include: Manuel Guerra, the Beast Man, Azor, Africano, Furia Negra, Super Bowl, and Blue Demon Jr.

PUERTO RICO

HSW: Wrestlers currently competing under The Hottest Stars of Wrestling banner are: Al & Anthony Rodriquez, Super Medico I (José Estrada Sr.), Chicky Starr (José Laureano), Castro Salvaje Jr., and Steam Dragon (Daniel Paris).

WWC: World Wrestling Council Universal champion Ray Gonzalez (Rámon González Rivera) has become a rulebreaker after five years as a fan favorite...Tag-team champions Ricky Santana (Aldo Ortiz) & Shane are currently feuding with Mark & Chris Youngblood...Terry Gordy and Michael Hope recently toured as the new Freebirds...Vilano III and Invader III (Johnny Rivera) are battling over the Puerto Rican title. ***NWW***

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Vol. 33 - Fred Blassie vs. Mr. Moto (2/3 falls).

Vol. 34 - "Wild" Red Berry vs. Fred Blassie (2/3 falls).

Vol. 35 - Pacific Title: Baron Leone vs. Rito Romero (2/3 falls).

Vol. 36 - Tony Morelli vs. Andre (Angelo) Poffo. "Wild" Red Berry vs. "Cyclone" Anaya (2/3 falls).

Vol. 37 - Al & Ramon Torres vs. Art Mahalik & Mike Sharpe Sr. Great John L. vs. Al Torres. Stan Halek vs. George Drake. WWA Title: Ed Carpentier vs. Mahalik.

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Vol. 40 - "Wild" Red Berry & Bud Curtis vs. Great Bolo & Louie Miller (2/3 falls—two refs) + several interviews.

Vol. 41 - Mr. Moto vs. Wilbur Snyder (2/3 falls).

Vol. 42 - Bob Korby vs. Don Lewin. Sandor Szabo vs. Roger Mackey (2/3 falls). Danny McShane vs. Gino Garibaldi.

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Vol. 44 - Hard-Boiled Haggerty vs. Mike Valentino. Don Eagle vs. Ramon Lopez. Don Arnold vs. Tarzan Tourville.

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MIKE'S MAILBAG

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Dear Mike,

I've been a fan of the WWF for over a decade, which is why it pains me to see what it has become. Any federation that has to bring in boxer/convicted rapist Mike Tyson to boost its ratings must be in dire straits. Under the brilliant leadership of Vince McMahon Jr., the WWF has been the premier wrestling attraction for the last 20 years—or had been anyway.

As cliche and silly as it may sound, pro wrestling is supposed to reflect society; it is the only sport that gives fans what they want to see, that's why wrestling changes so much. People change and, in turn, they change the nature of the game. It's part of the appeal of the mat world; however, the WWF is now catering only to the moronic fans and what they want to see. It used to be there were actually good guys and bad guys. Now everyone's a bad guy and the morons couldn't be happier.

The eternal struggle between good and evil continues and evil seems to be winning. So the bottom line is that society is in trouble if it's half as bad as the WWF makes it out to be, because Vince McMahon said so.

Christian Fitzgerald
Belchertown, Massachusetts

Dear Mike,

I applaud your article deploring the "fallen state" of pro wrestling today! The example it imparts to young and old further incites violence and leaves the world with fewer and fewer "hero" role models.

Also, what ever happened to the slower-paced, scientific wrestling matches where there was a more genuine battle of strong wills, skills, and endurance? Sadly, I doubt they'll ever return. That's why the legendary tapes of the 1950s are so important to me! At least I grew up with the older values and had "heroes" to model my life after.

William Culpepper Jr.
Redwood City, California

Dear Mike,

This letter is in response to the question posed by ***New Waver*** Phillip Thorman in issue #31 regarding the AWA and WCCW title belts.

According to Jerry Lawler, the WCCW belt was returned to Kerry Von Erich shortly after their title unification match. Lawler kept his AWA belt because Verne Gagne allegedly owed him money for the *SuperClash III* ppv. In August of 1995, I traded a new belt to Lawler for his original AWA belt, which is still in my possession. The last AWA belt used is still in the possession of Larry Zbyszko.

As for the WCCW belt since Kerry's death, I would greatly appreciate it if any ***New Waver*** could provide information on its whereabouts.

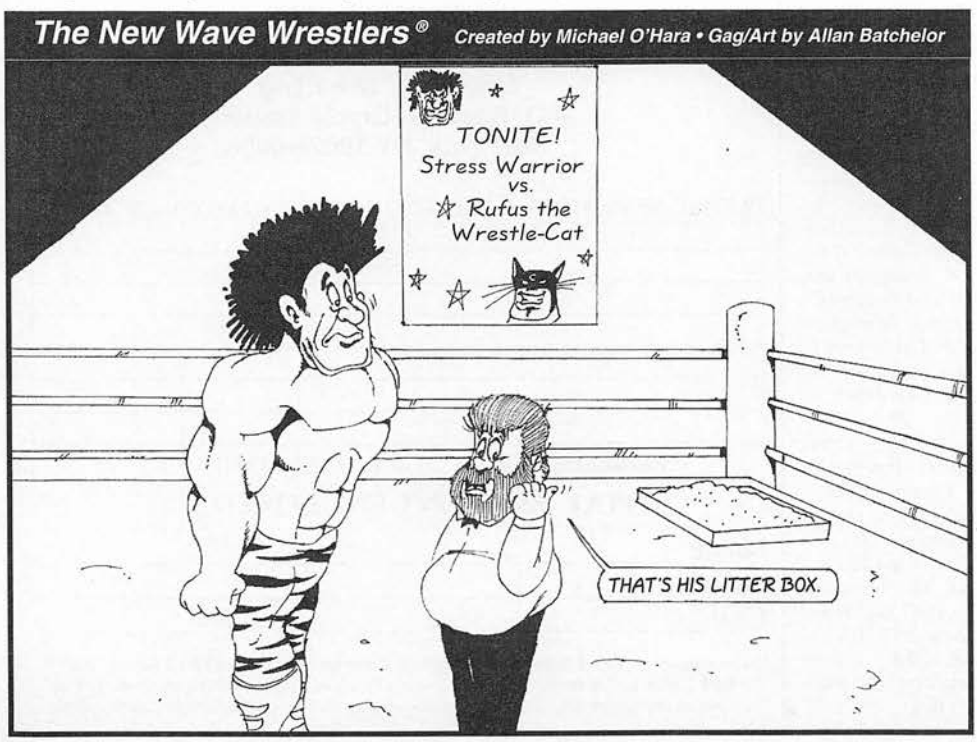
David Millican
Brighton, Tennessee

Dear Mike,

I think the WWF is still number one in this sport. The WWF storylines are credible and easy to follow most of the time. I just can't say the same about WCW, especially with the NWO. Why did the Giant rejoin Hogan's camp? What's with Bret Hart?

Vince McMahon and company are professionals who know how to build a feud and play with our emotions. When I watch *WCW Nitro*, I'm not intrigued by what's going on with their storylines. How many fans really care about the Chavo Jr. and Eddy Guerrero situation?

Luc Charbonneau
Montreal, Quebec, Canada



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PINFORMATION

Q: You've listed Rocky Maivia's real name as Duane Glasteau on several occasions. I happen to know Duane and his real last name is Johnson. I would appreciate you printing this letter for all of Rock's fans around the world.

R.J. Williams
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

A: Rocky Johnson is the father of Rocky Maivia (Duane). Johnson's real name is Drew Glasteau, therefore, Rocky Maivia's real name is Duane Glasteau.

—•—

Q: What are the names of Bret Hart's siblings and how old are they? Are Kamala and Bad News Brown the same person? What happened to Demolition? Are Brother Love and Paul Bearer the same person?

Dillon Peddicord
Westminster, Maryland

A: The Hart children (from oldest to youngest) are Smith, Bruce, Keith, Wayne, Dean, Ellie, Georgia, Bret, Alison, Ross, Diana, and Owen (the baby).

Kamala (James Harris) and "Bad News" Brown (Allen Coage) are not the same person and they are not related.

Demolition Ax (Bill Eadie) and Blast (Richard Charland) continue to wrestle on the Northeast circuits. Smash (Barry Darsow) and Crush (Brian Adams) currently compete in WCW.

Brother Love (Bruce Prichard) and Paul Bearer (William Moody) are not the same person and they are also not related.

—•—

Q: What has happened to P.N. News? Will Scott Hall return to the WWF? Where is Big Josh?

Mike Wilson
Florence, South Carolina

A: P.N. News (Paul Neu) has been competing exclusively for Germany's CWA promotion over the past few years.

Scott Hall has a lengthy contract with WCW. It's doubtful that he'll be leaving any time soon unless WCW and Scott come to some mutually satisfying agreement.

"Big" Josh (Matt Osbourne) is currently competing in his native Oregon.

—•—

Q: What is Chris Benoit's real name? Was his father a wrestler? Did Kane ever wrestle as Dr. Isaac Yankem? How many Ultimate Warriors have there been? Where is Ricky Steamboat? Where is Nikita Koloff? Is he related to Ivan Koloff? What is Saturn's real name? Are Chyna and Triple H married?

Ben Colianni
Trucksville, Pennsylvania

A: That's Chris' real name. His father was not a wrestler.

As listed many times before, Kane and Yankem are the same man—Glen Jacobs.

There has always been one and ONLY ONE Ultimate Warrior (James Hellwig).

Ricky Steamboat (Richard Blood) has retired and operates successful health clubs in the Mid-Atlantic region.

Nikita Koloff (Scott Simpson) is retired. He is not related to Ivan Koloff (James Parris).

Saturn's real name is Perry Satullo.

Chyna (Joan Lee) and HHH (Paul Michael LeVesque) are not married.

—•—

Q: Where is Marlena? Is she ever coming back to the WWF? Are Goldust and Marlena still married?

Nick Strickler
Baltimore, Maryland

A: Marlena (Terri Runnels) recently appeared at a number of NWA-sanctioned events in New Jersey. She is still married to "Goldust" Dustin Runnels and is very busy raising their baby daughter.

—•—

Q: In the 1970s, Capt. Lou Albano managed a tag team called the Executioners. Who were they? What became of them? What happened to "Superstar" Billy Graham?

William Hamilton
Trenton, New Jersey

A: The Executioners were Walter "Killer" Kowalski and the late John Minton, who competed as Chuck O'Connor and later "Big" John Studd. Kowalski (interviewed in ***NWW #22***) is retired and runs a pro-wrestling school in Massachusetts.

Billy Graham (Wayne Coleman) devotes his time to speaking engagements held by various Christian ministries on the West Coast.

—•—

Q: What is the real cause of Brian Pillman's death? I heard one story that he died of an overdose of painkillers, but ***New Wave Wrestling*** stated he died of congenital heart disease. What's the real story?

Joey DeJesus
Manhattan, New York

A: As reported in ***NWW #31***, Brian Pillman died of congenital heart disease.

We live in a society today in which people are quicker to accept scandal over the truth. We report the facts, nothing more and certainly nothing less. You'll find many newsstand mat magazines catering to an audience who prefer sensationalistic and fictitious wrestling coverage, but we're not one of them.

—•—

Q: What happened to former GWF lightweight champ Chaz? Are Michinoku Pro Wrestling tapes available in the U.S.? Is Jimmy Del Rey related to Bob Backlund? How about Shane Douglas and Paul Orndorff?

John Clapp
Torrington, Connecticut

A: Is there any ***New Waver*** who can provide an update on Chaz?

We're not aware of any Michinoku tapes available in the United States.

Jimmy Del Ray (James Richlund) and Bob Backlund are not related. During the early 1980s, James competed as "Jim Backlund" on the Florida circuit.

We've finally cleared this one up! Shane Douglas (Troy Martin) and Paul Orndorff (that's his real name) are not related. The confusion arose in the 1980s when Shane competed as Troy Orndorff (the younger brother of Paul) on the Mid-South circuit.

—•—

Q: How long did it take the Ultimate Warrior to attain such a massive body? Is there any relationship between Big Bubba Rogers and the Big Boss Man?

Wira Pori
Kuala Belait, Brunei

A: It took the Warrior many years to attain such a powerful and defined physique.

Big Bubba Rogers and the Big Boss Man are the same person—Raymond Traylor.

—•—

Q: What happened to the Patriot (Del Wikes)? Is it true that Earthquake is Golga from the Jackyl's Human Oddities?

Ken Johnson
Burbank, California

A: The Patriot was sidelined with a debilitating knee injury a little over a year ago. We have no additional information on him at this time.

Yes! The Earthquake (John Tenta) is now competing as the masked Golga of Human Oddities fame.

Send your questions to:
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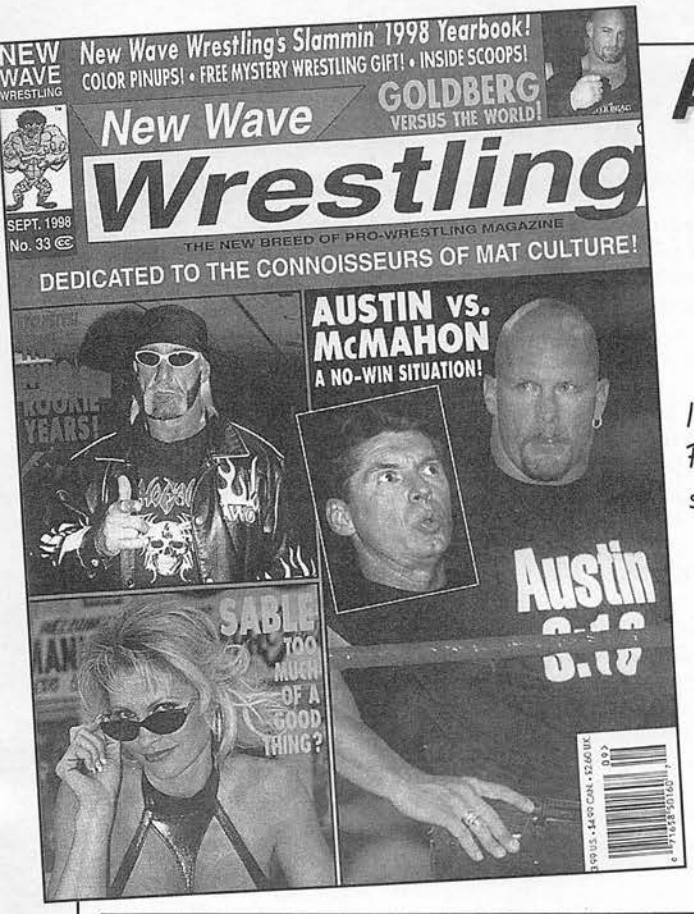
That's all for this issue, ***New Waver***. Keep those positive waves, and good night, B.S. Pully, wherever you are!



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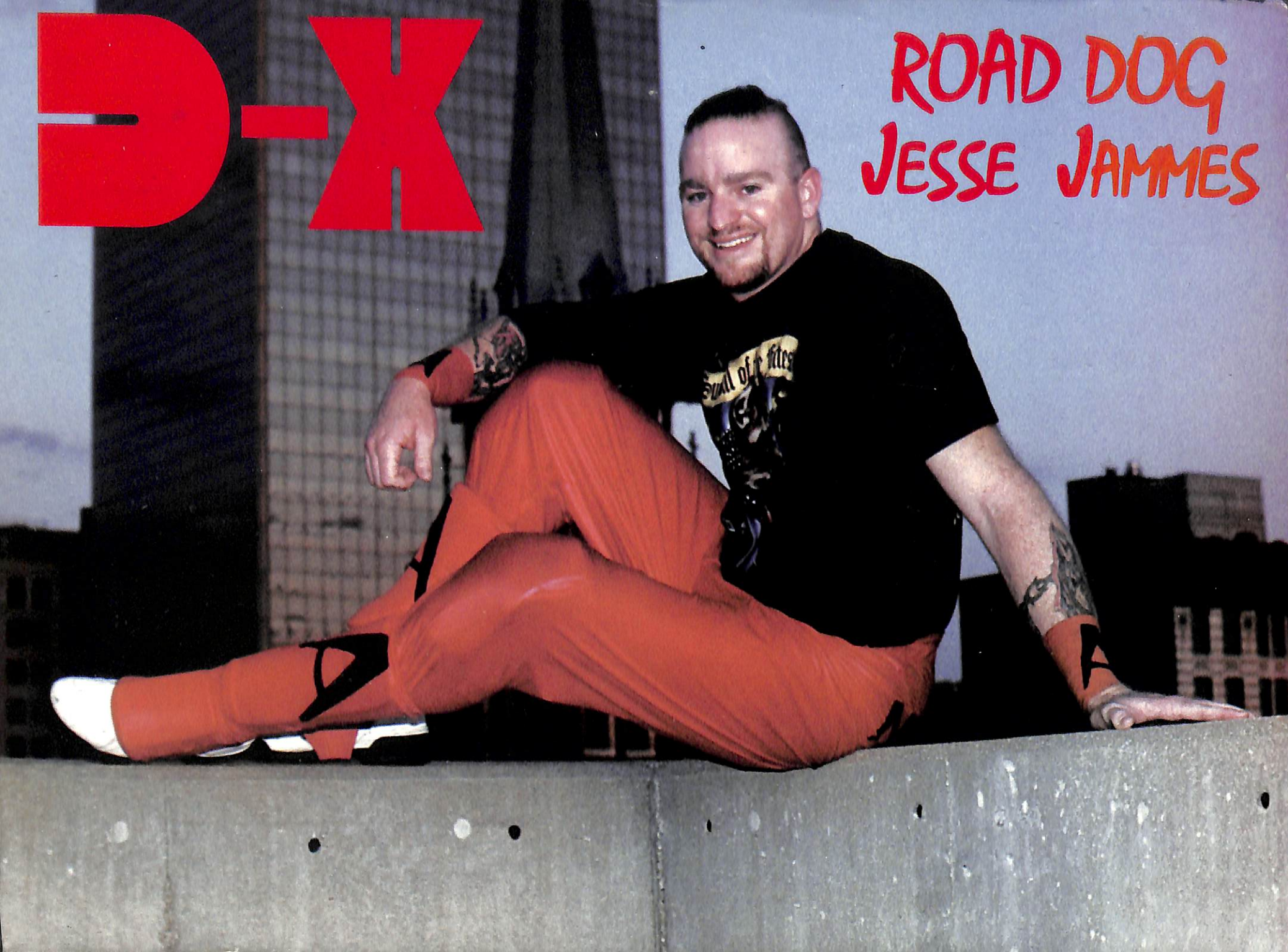
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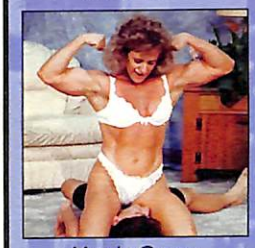

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